ACTION COMICS PIZAZZ

銀と金

福本伸行

ACTION COMICS PIZAZZ

闇の欲望が交錯する永田町舞台裏!!

銀と金

福本伸行

双葉社★

アクションピザッツ から生まれた単行本

絶賛発売中!

「はぐはぐ」第①~③巻……こなみかなた&沼田朗
「バージン・ママ」第①~⑦巻……村生ミオ
「赤いドレス」……村生ミオ
「南の家族」全5巻……高橋和男
「BARレモンハート」第①~⑪巻……古谷三敏
「音やん」第①~⑤巻……中村博文
「大市民」第①~⑥巻……柳沢きみお
「大市民・番外編」……柳沢きみお
「いやな奴」全③巻……矢島正雄&はやせ淳
「マリー獲(ゲーム)物」全③巻……千葉潔和
「JAPAN」……檀本欽一&本そういち
「あのコが欲しい/」全②巻……坂本しゅうじ
「レディ・メス」全②巻……川崎三枝子&高山紀芳
「同居時代」第①巻……山田こうすけ
「雫ちゃんクリニック」第②巻……葉月かずお
「へい/お待ちっ/」第②巻……ともだ秀和

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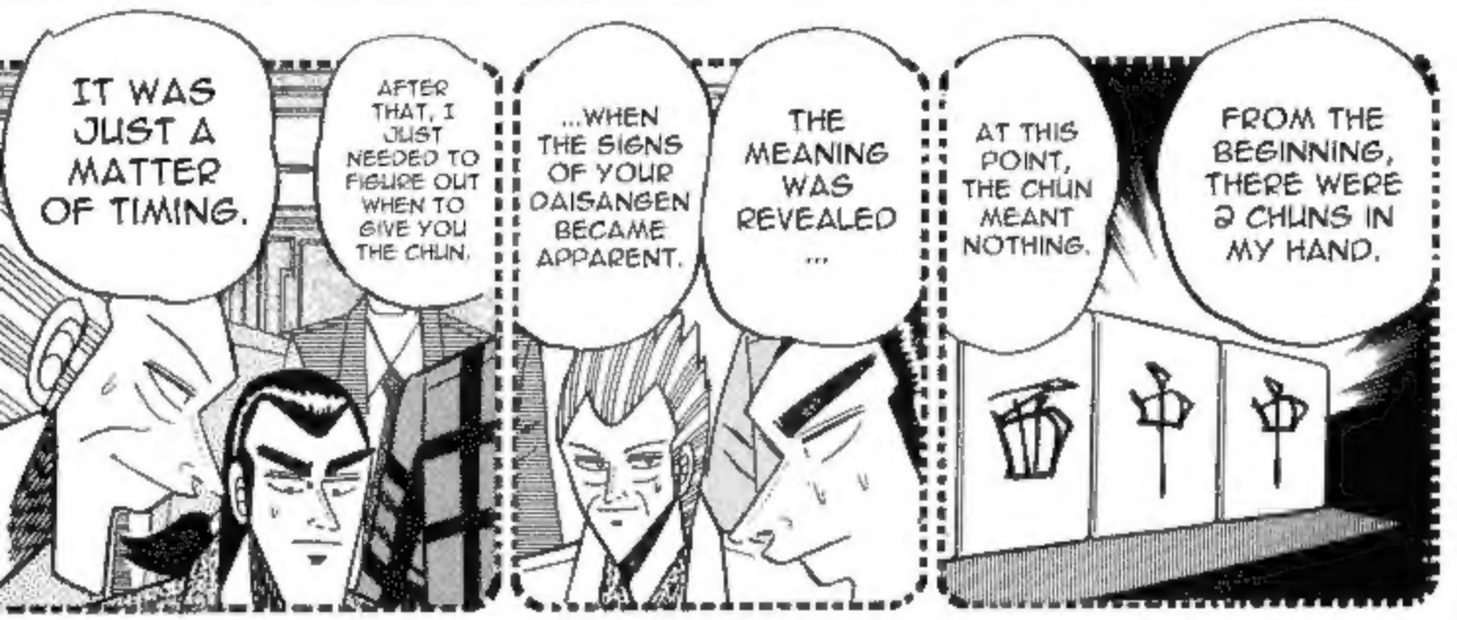
政治家と株――カネの背後にドス黒い野望があり、野望の陰に政治謀略がある。そして今、剛腕政治家の裏シナリオによる"永田町再編劇"の幕があく……//

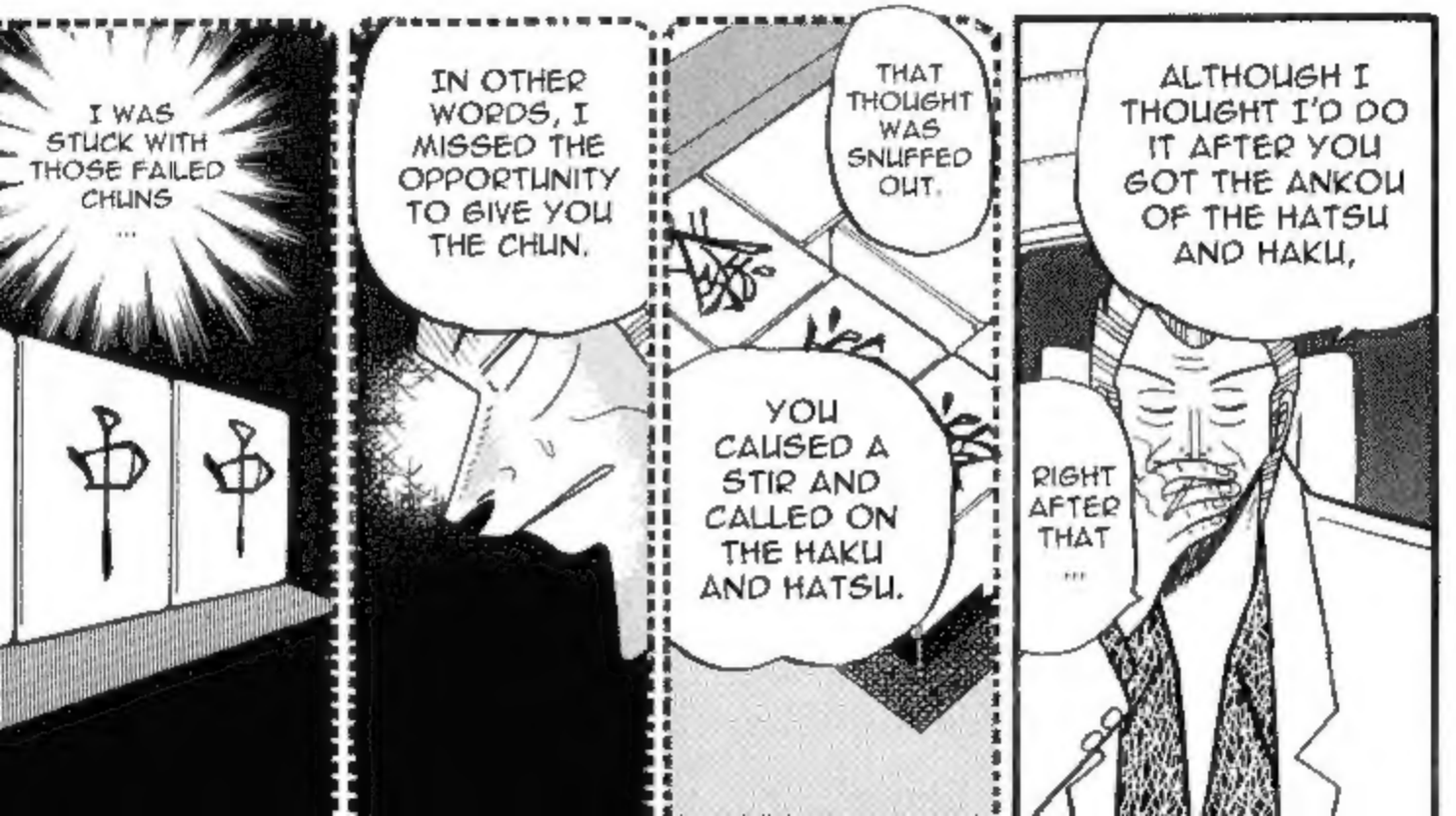
POLITICS ARE GAMBLING

.....

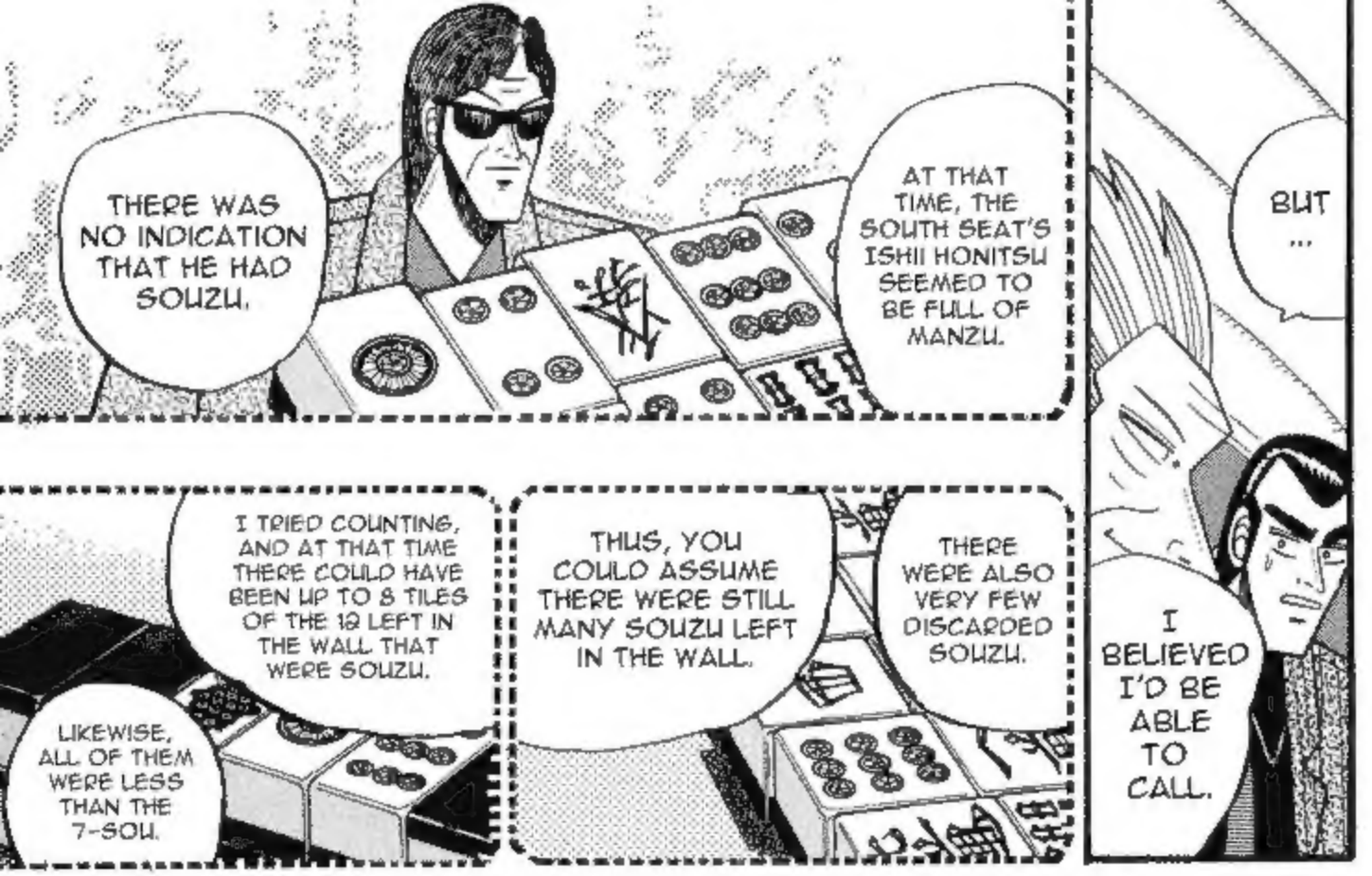
.....
BOTH ME AND KURAMAE ...
WE DANCED IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND ...
IN THE END ...

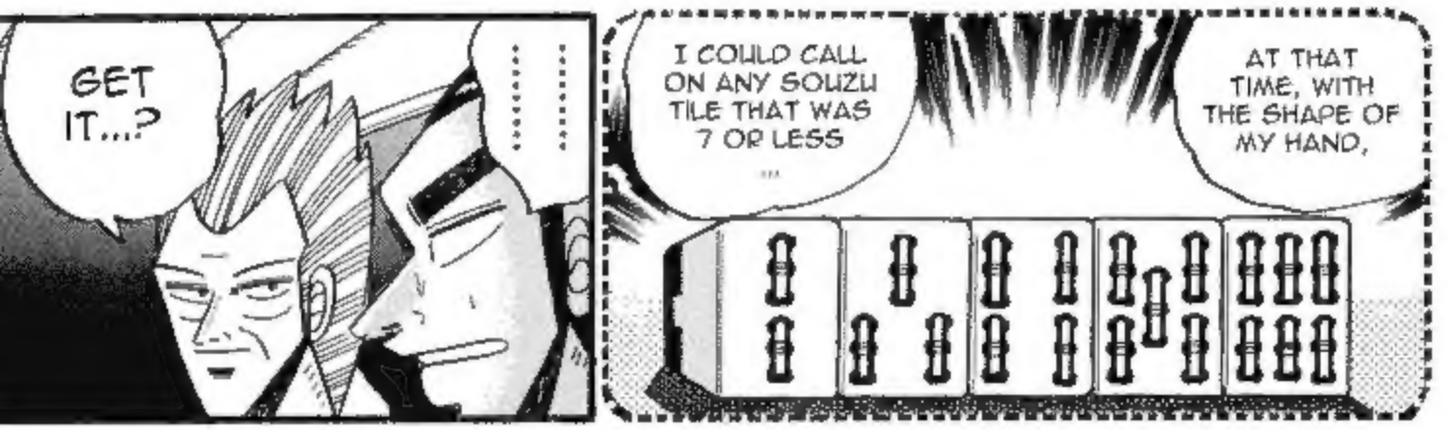
FROM THAT DEVIATION TO OUR PLANS,
AT THAT TIME WHEN THE FINAL CURTAIN WAS ABOUT TO DROP,
A NEW SCENARIO WAS ACCIDENT-ALLY BORN.
IN GAMBLING AND LIFE, THINGS RARELY GO EXACTLY AS YOU PLAN.
THIS TIME, I REWROTE THE STORY-LINE OF OUR VICTORY.
NO ...
IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU SAID.


IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIMING.
AFTER THAT, I JUST NEEDED TO FIGURE OUT WHEN TO GIVE YOU THE CHUN.
...WHEN THE SIGNS OF YOUR DAISANGEN BECAME APPARENT.
THE MEANING WAS REVEALED ...
AT THIS POINT, THE CHUN MEANT NOTHING.
FROM THE BEGINNING, THERE WERE 2 CHUNS IN MY HAND.

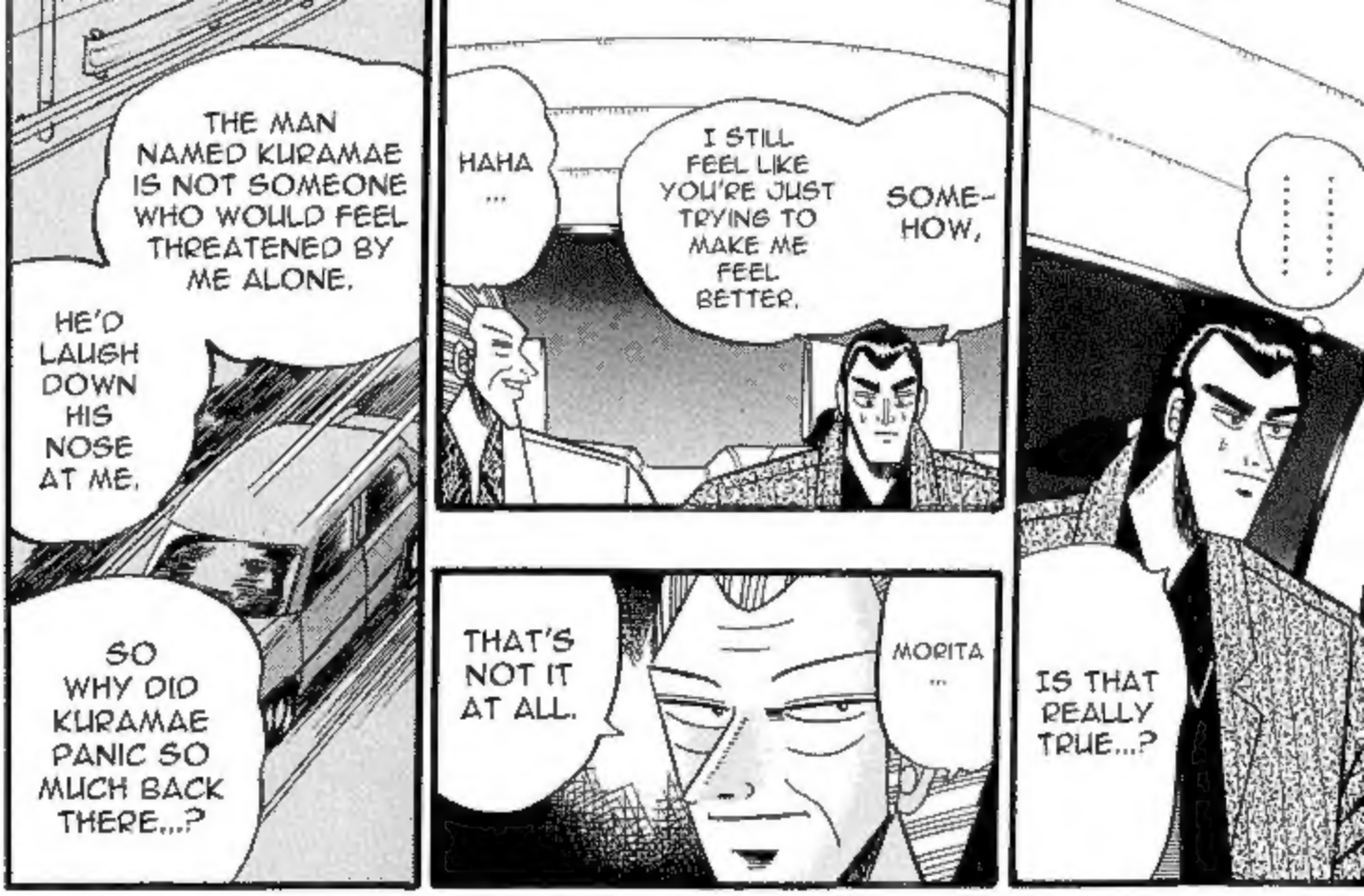

I WAS STUCK WITH THOSE FAILED CHUNS ...
IN OTHER WORDS, I MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOU THE CHUN.
THAT THOUGHT WAS SNUFFED OUT.
YOU CAUSED A STIR AND CALLED ON THE HAKU AND HATSU.
ALTHOUGH I THOUGHT I'D DO IT AFTER YOU GOT THE ANKOU OF THE HATSU AND HAKU,
RIGHT AFTER THAT ...

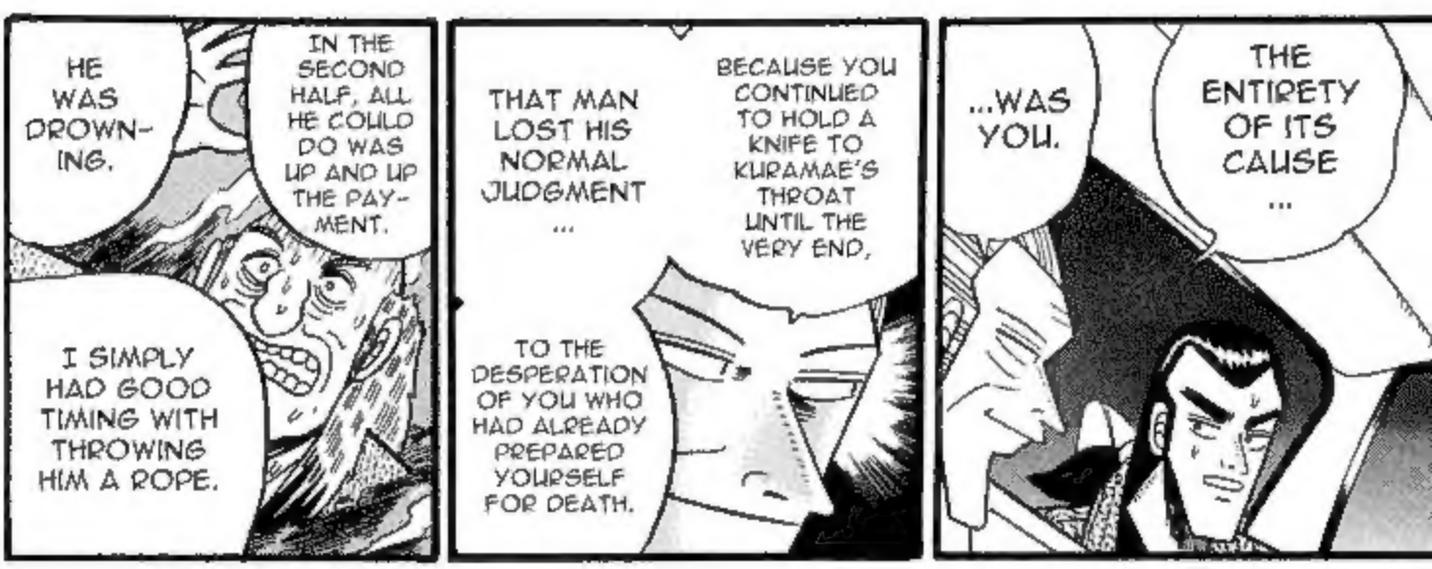
THE PATH TO LEGITIMATELY OBTAINING 3 TRILLION HAD BEEN BLOCKED.
IN THE HOMESTRETCH, THERE WAS NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE ANOTHER ROUTE BY PLAYING WITH THAT IRREGULAR HAND.
THERE-FORE, RELUCT-ANTLY,
I DECIDED TO USE A VARIETY OF TRICKS.
HOWEVER, THE CRUCIAL YAKUMAN GIFT WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED.
OF COURSE, GIVING YOU THAT CHUN WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY.
THAT WOULD ONLY PUT KURAMAE AT EASE ONCE AGAIN.
THAT'S RIGHT ...
WHEN I DREW THE SECOND TO LAST TILE, YOU KNEW THAT IT WOULDN'T BE THE CHUN, RIGHT?
I MEAN ...
BUT ...
.....
EH...?
THERE WOULD BE NO WAY AROUND IT.
IN THAT CASE, I WOULD HAVE COMPLETED YOUR HAND.
THAT'S ABOUT ALL WE'D BE ABLE TO DO.
I WOULD FIND A WAY TO GET THE CHUN FROM THAT ILLEGAL 8-PIN KAN TO YOU.
.....
FUFU ...
WELL, ALTHOUGH IT WAS GOOD THAT I DREW THE 9-PIN BY CHANCE,
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF IT HADN'T BEEN A TILE YOU COULD CALL ON?


THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT HE HAD SOUZU.
AT THAT TIME, THE SOUTH SEAT'S ISHII HONITSU SEEMED TO BE FULL OF MANZU.
BUT ...
I BELIEVED I'D BE ABLE TO CALL.
I TRIED COUNTING, AND AT THAT TIME THERE COULD HAVE BEEN UP TO 8 TILES OF THE 12 LEFT IN THE WALL THAT WERE SOUZU.
LIKEWISE, ALL OF THEM WERE LESS THAN THE 7-SOU.
THUS, YOU COULD ASSUME THERE WERE STILL MANY SOUZU LEFT IN THE WALL.
THERE WERE ALSO VERY FEW DISCARDED SOUZU.


GET IT...?
.....
I COULD CALL ON ANY SOUZU TILE THAT WAS 7 OR LESS ...
AT THAT TIME, WITH THE SHAPE OF MY HAND,

YOU CONTRIBUTED THE MOST TO THAT GAME ...
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT ...
WELL, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT IT WAS A GAMBLE.
.....
YOU'VE SURVIVED MANY OF THEM BY NOW.
THE PROBABILITY THAT YOU WOULD CUT A TILE I COULD CALL ON WAS 8/12.
IN OTHER WORDS,
THE PROBABILITY WAS SUCH THAT THE OUTCOME WAS CLEAR ENOUGH.


THE MAN NAMED KURAMAE IS NOT SOMEONE WHO WOULD FEEL THREATENED BY ME ALONE.
HE'D LAUGH DOWN HIS NOSE AT ME.
SO WHY DID KURAMAE PANIC SO MUCH BACK THERE...?
HAHA ...
I STILL FEEL LIKE YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
SOME-HOW,
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
MORITA ...
.....
IS THAT REALLY TRUE...?


HE WAS DROWN-ING.
IN THE SECOND HALF, ALL HE COULD DO WAS UP AND UP THE PAY-MENT.
I SIMPLY HAD GOOD TIMING WITH THROWING HIM A ROPE.
THAT MAN LOST HIS NORMAL JUDGMENT ...
BECAUSE YOU CONTINUED TO HOLD A KNIFE TO KURAMAE'S THROAT UNTIL THE VERY END,
TO THE DESPERATION OF YOU WHO HAD ALREADY PREPARED YOURSELF FOR DEATH.
...WAS YOU.
THE ENTIRETY OF ITS CAUSE ...

IT WAS ABOUT 30% ME, AND 70% YOU.
IF WE BREAK DOWN THE CAUSE OF TODAY'S VICTORY,
THAT'S HOW KURAMAE WAS CORNERED.
WELL, IF A RATING IS MORE APPEALING TO YOU ...
AND AS I PULLED HIM UP, HE BECAME BOUND BY THE ROPE.
ALL HE COULD DO NOW WAS KEEP HOLDING ONTO THE ROPE.

I DO.
DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT...?
.....
.....

WE GOT 58.
PLUS 50 BILLION IN PROMISSORY NOTES ...
IT'S PERFECT ...

NOT ONLY THAT, IT WAS A HUGE WIN.
THOUGH I WOULD HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH GETTING 8 POLITICIANS FROM SEIKYO ...
OUR VICTORY TODAY IS THANKS TO YOU.

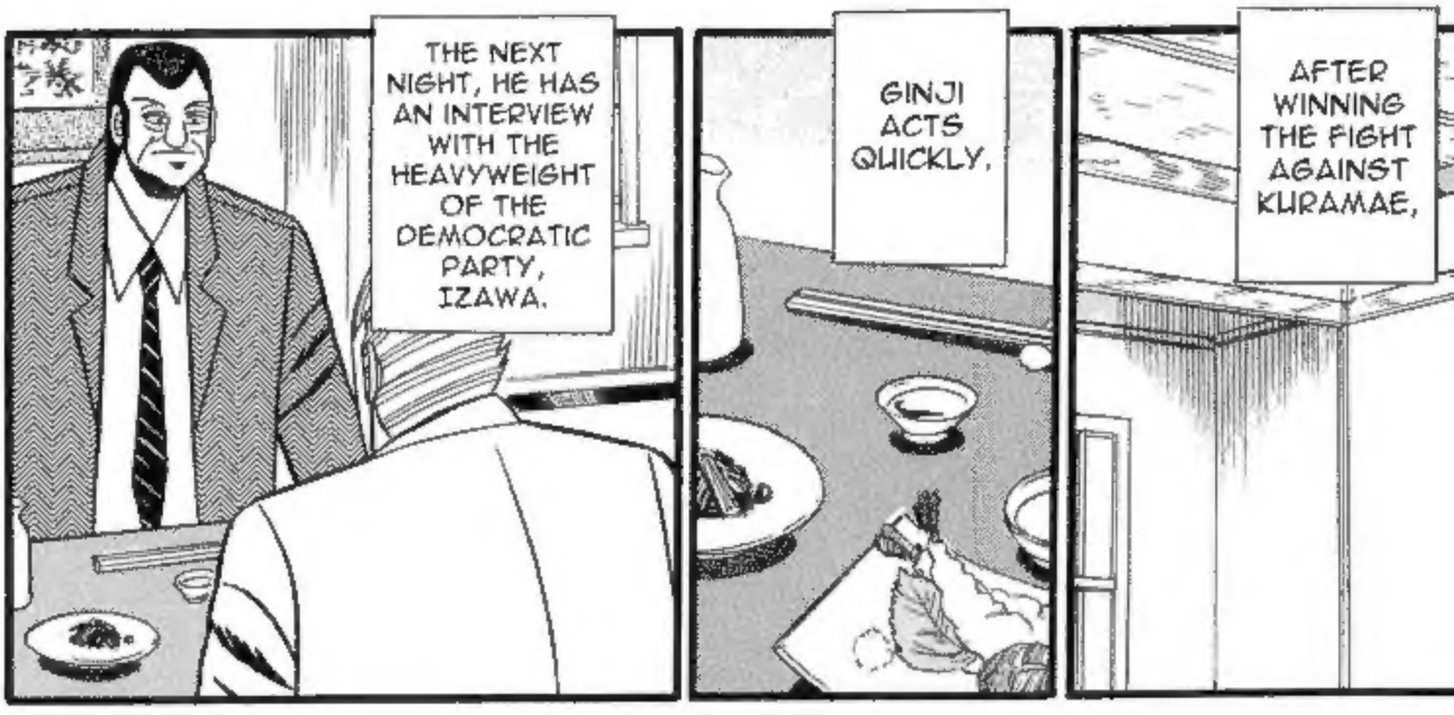
.....?
THE NATION...?
THAT'S RIGHT ...

THE NEXT PLACE WE GAMBLE WILL BE NO NARROW, CRAMPED BASEMENT.
IT WILL BE THE NATION OF JAPAN ITSELF!

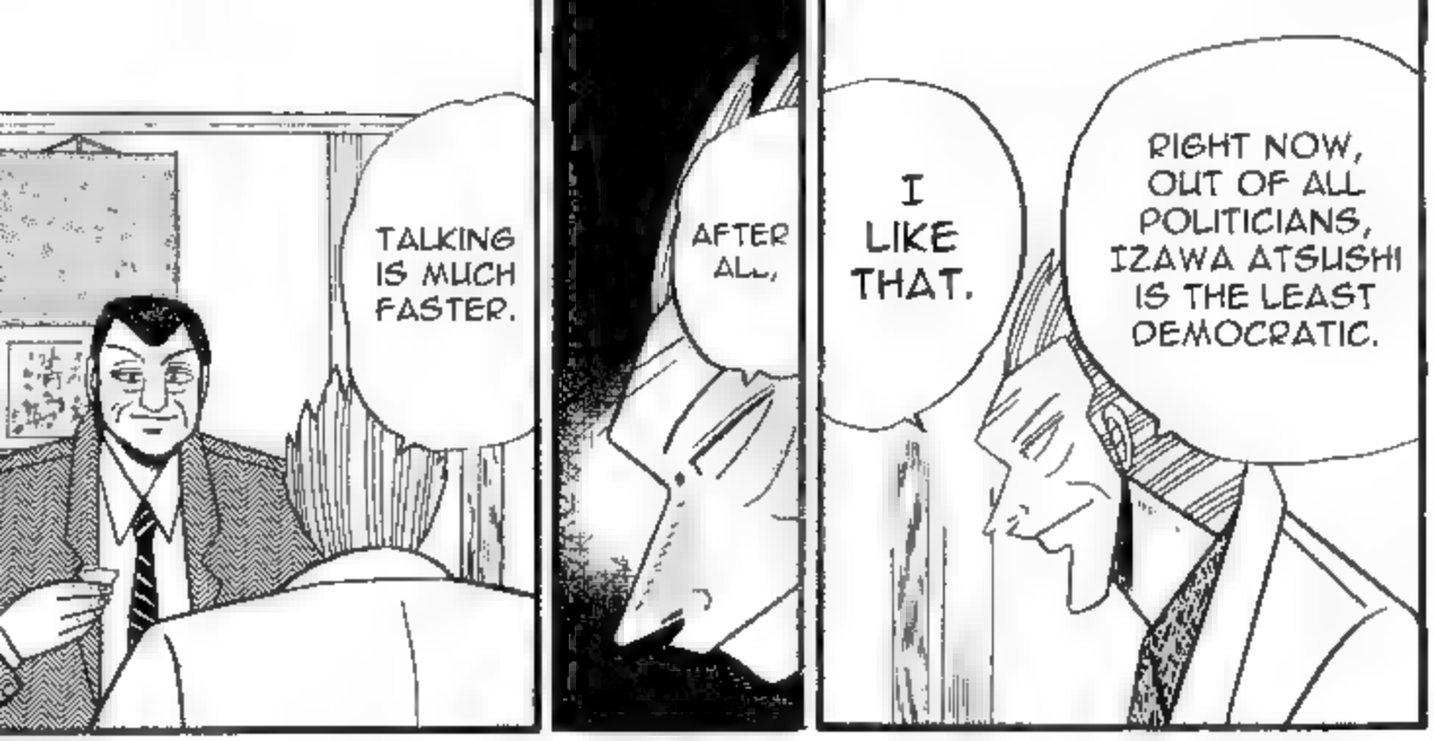
WITH THIS, I'VE GATHERED ALL THE PIECES I NEED.
MAYBE EVEN MORE THAN I NEED.

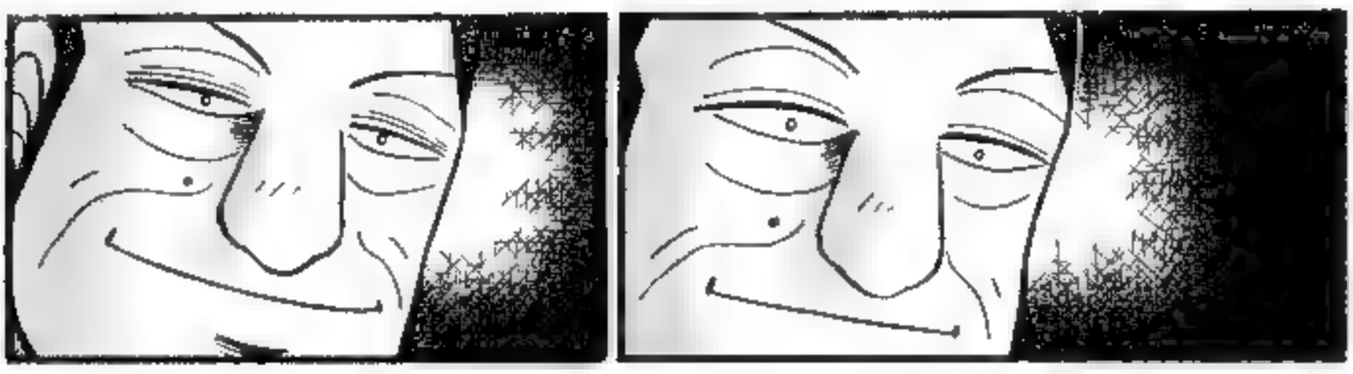
IT IS IN OUR POWER ...
TO CHANGE THIS COUNTRY...!

IT'S THE FINAL GAME.
KEEP IT UP, MORITA ...


THE NEXT NIGHT, HE HAS AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAVYWEIGHT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IZAWA.
GINJI ACTS QUICKLY.
AFTER WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST KURAMAE,

BUT ...
.....
AT THE SAME TIME, HE OFFERS HIM FUNDING IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION.
HE INFORMS HIM OF HIS ACQUISITION OF SEIKYO'S DEBT CERTIFICATES.
I HAVE TO WONDER WHY YOU ARE SUPPORTING ME SO MUCH ...
BECAUSE I BOUGHT YOU.
THIS IS GOOD TO HEAR ...


TALKING IS MUCH FASTER.
AFTER ALL,
I LIKE THAT.
RIGHT NOW, OUT OF ALL POLITICIANS, IZAWA ATSUSHI IS THE LEAST DEMOCRATIC.



BEING UNDETERMINED AT THIS POINT WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION
NEVERTHELESS COMING TO AN AGREEMENT IS GOOD.
FUFU ...
A WASTE OF TIME ..
I THINK DEMOCRACY IS TOO TIME-CONSUMING.
IS THAT SO?
FUFU ...

THAT'S RIGHT
.....
MARCH, 1993 AT THIS TIME, IZAWA WAS IN A PREDICAMENT
OUR TIME IS COMING ...
I'M GLAD, GIN-SAN
YOUR SUPPORT

AN EXPLO-SION
THESE COMPLAINTS LOST HIM BACK NG
AFTER THIS, IZAWA'S POSITION WITHIN THE PARTY CONTINUED TO WORSEN.
FROM THE START, THERE HAD BEEN COMPLAINTS ABOUT IZAWA'S AGGRESSIVE TACTICS.
THE DE FACTO BOSS OF IZAWA'S POLITICAL CIRCLE, KANEMITSU, HAD JUST BEEN ARRESTED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN A HUGE TAX EVASION SCANDAL.
THE MONEY DRIED UP, AND HE WAS BEING SHUT OUT OF HOLD NG ANY POS TION
WITHIN THE PARTY, IZAWA WAS COLLAPS NG RAPIDLY
IZAWA'S GROUP OF 36 PEOPLE IN THE RULING PARTY VOTED IN FAVOR OF THIS.
JUNE, 1993. THE OPPOS TION PARTY HAS SUBMITTED A VOTE OF NO CONF DENCE AGAINST THE CABINET
IZAWA'S SIDE, N RESPONSE TO THIS BLATANT BESIEGEMENT, BEGAN PUTT NG A CLEVER PLAN INTO ACTION
. . . . . .
UPON RECE VING THIS DISSOLUTION, IZAWA'S GROUP RESIGNS FROM THEIR PARTY
THE MINAGAWA CABINET IS FORCED TO DISBAND
THE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION PASSED
ALTHOUGH SUCH A THING IS UNHEARD OF
.AND ESTABLISH THE NEW TRUTH PARTY.
新誠党
NEW TRUTH PARTY

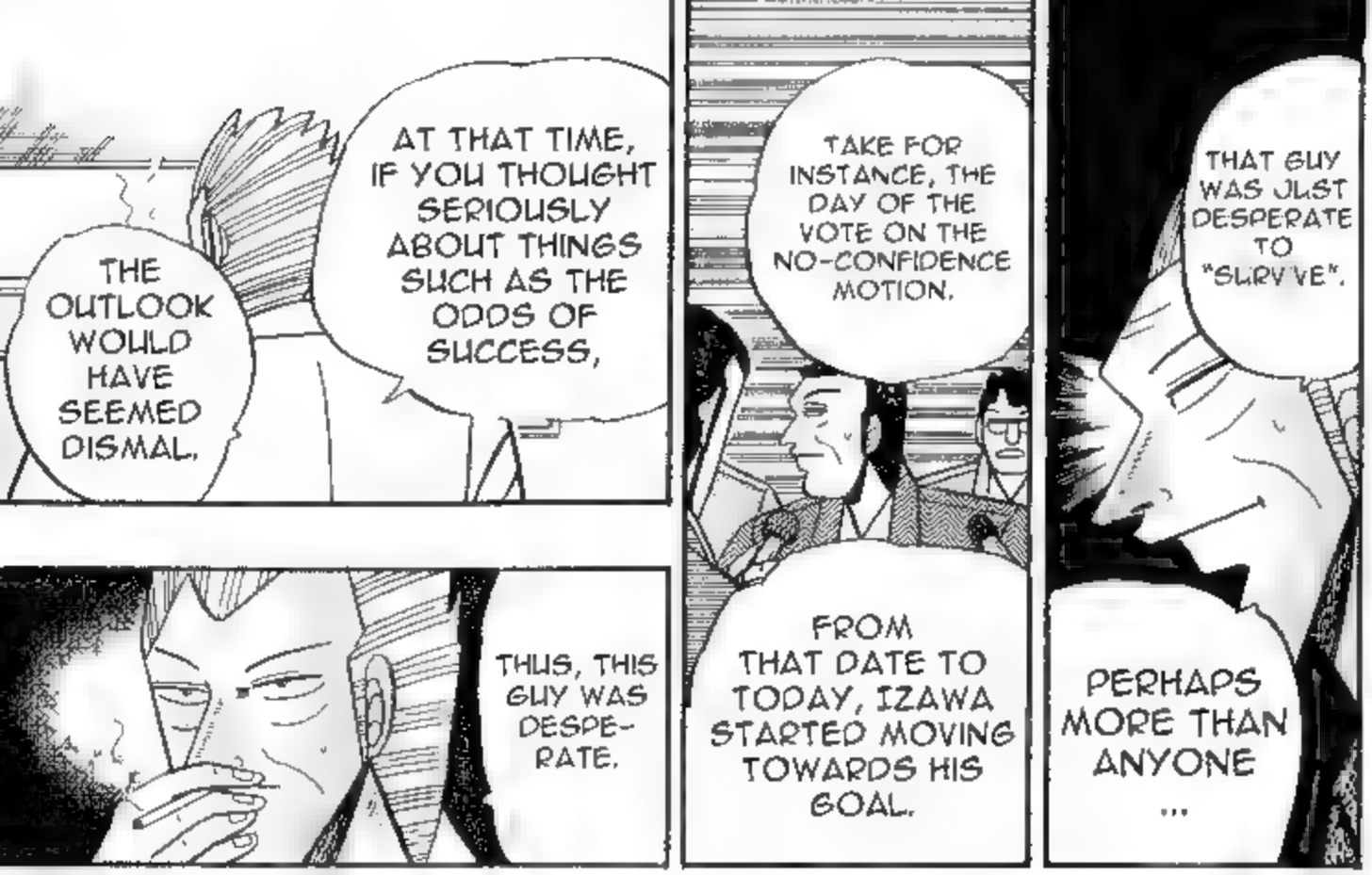
POLITICIANS WHO LEAVE THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY LOSE ALL OF THEIR POLITICAL WORTH
NORMALLY
.....
IZAWA LEFT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY!
GIN-SAN
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S REALLY LEAVING ...
THERE IS STILL A CHANCE OF VICTORY.
BUT THIS TIME, I DON'T KNOW.
THIRDLY, THEY ARE EMBRACING THE "GOOD CAUSE" OF POLITICAL REFORM.
SECONDLY, THEY HAVE HANEKAWA, WITH HIS CLEAN IMAGE WITH THEM
FIRST, THERE'S THAT LARGE FAMILY, SO TO SPEAK, OF 36 PEOPLE WHO LEFT
.....
THEY WILL FACE JUDGMENT SOON
WE DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER YET
THE BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL BEGINS NOW
THE SO-CALLED RASH ACT OF CREATING A NEW PARTY ...
IS IT RECKLESS?
OR ARE THEY JUST AHEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE?

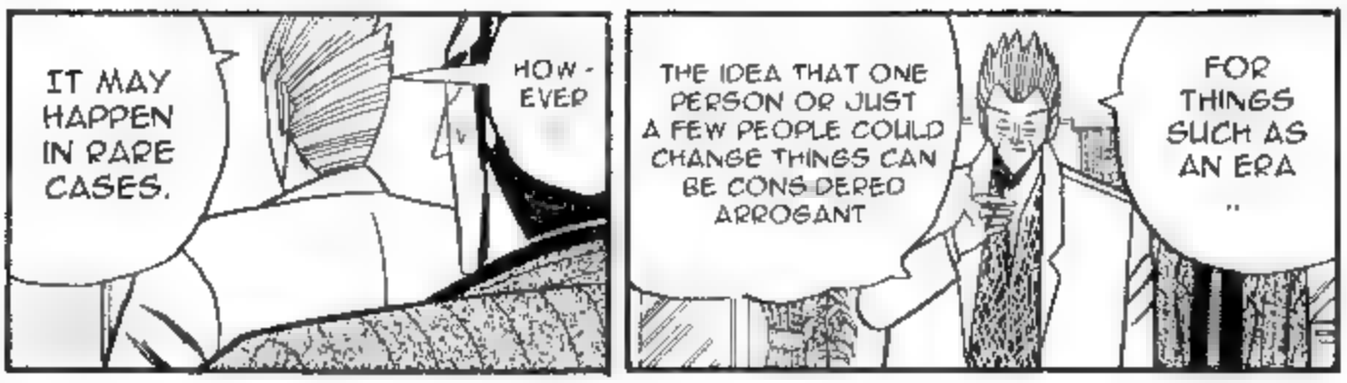
JULY
1993
ALTHOUGH IT HAD THE USUAL FLOW
THIS TIME WAS DIFFERENT
THIS WAS BECAUSE IZAWA WAS RUNNING LOOSE AS A FREE AGENT
IT BROKE APART THE MAJORITY'S 893 SEATS
HOWEVER, THE DEPARTURE OF IZAWA'S GROUP LEFT A PAINFUL GAP
ENSNARED OTHER SMALLER POLITICAL PARTIES INTO A COALITION GOVERNMENT
UP UNTIL NOW, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
MAINTAINED STATUS QUO
MEANWHILE, THE RULING DEMOCRATIC PARTY,
ABOVE THAT, THE PUBLIC WAS FED UP WITH THE LONG-TERM ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
ALTHOUGH IZAWA HAD A DIRTY IMAGE,
FROM 36 SEATS TO 55,
A GREAT VICTORY
THE NEW TRUTH PARTY TOOK THEIR FAR SHARE OF THE VOTE
RESOLUTE AND HARMONIOUS,
IZAWA DIVIDED THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHEN FORMING THE NEW TRUTH PARTY
THE GENERAL ELECTION
高田 明男
新見 建二
古谷 重造
佐々本 誠
河井 正平
横田 昇

AUGUST 1993
東朝新聞
55年体
細山内閣誕生
新聞

DID "IZAWA" REALLY PAINT THIS KIND OF PICTURE?
SUCH A THING
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S TRUE ...
THE DEMO-CRATIC PARTY LOSES POWER..!
55 YEAR ADMINI-STRATION COLLAPSES!

THAT GUY S NOT THAT K ND OF SUPER-MAN.
YOU'RE MAKING TOO MUCH OF IT.
I HAVE TO THROW COLD WATER ON YOUR NAIVE EYES.
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
COULD IT BE THAT THIS IZAWA GUY IS ACTUALLY A GENIUS POLITICIAN...?
HEY, GIN-SAN ...
FUFU ...


AT THAT TIME, IF YOU THOUGHT SERIOUSLY ABOUT THINGS SUCH AS THE ODDS OF SUCCESS,
THE OUTLOOK WOULD HAVE SEEMED DISMAL.
THUS, THIS GUY WAS DESPE-RATE.
TAKE FOR INSTANCE, THE DAY OF THE VOTE ON THE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION.
FROM THAT DATE TO TODAY, IZAWA STARTED MOVING TOWARDS HIS GOAL.
THAT GUY WAS JUST DESPERATE TO "SURVIVE".
PERHAPS MORE THAN ANYONE ...


IT MAY HAPPEN IN RARE CASES.
HOW-EVER
THE IDEA THAT ONE PERSON OR JUST A FEW PEOPLE COULD CHANGE THINGS CAN BE CONS DERED ARROGANT
FOR THINGS SUCH AS AN ERA ..

. . . . . .
IN OTHER WORDS, .T COULD ALSO BE THAT ONE PERSON OR A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE COULD MAKE AN ERA.
THAT IS, IF THOSE PEOPLE ARE DESPERATE.
A SINGLE PERSON'S DESPERATION CAN INFLUENCE AN ERA.

THAT'S ALL ...
.....

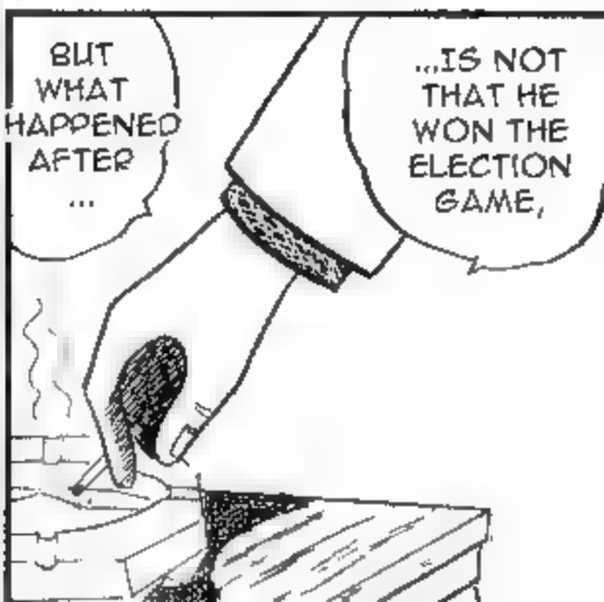
IZAWA IS JUST ...
TO PUT IT S MPLY
THE WINNER OF A GAMBLE ..

THAT'S THE ROMANT C WAY OF PUTTING IT
THAT KIND OF THING ...
WEEEL...

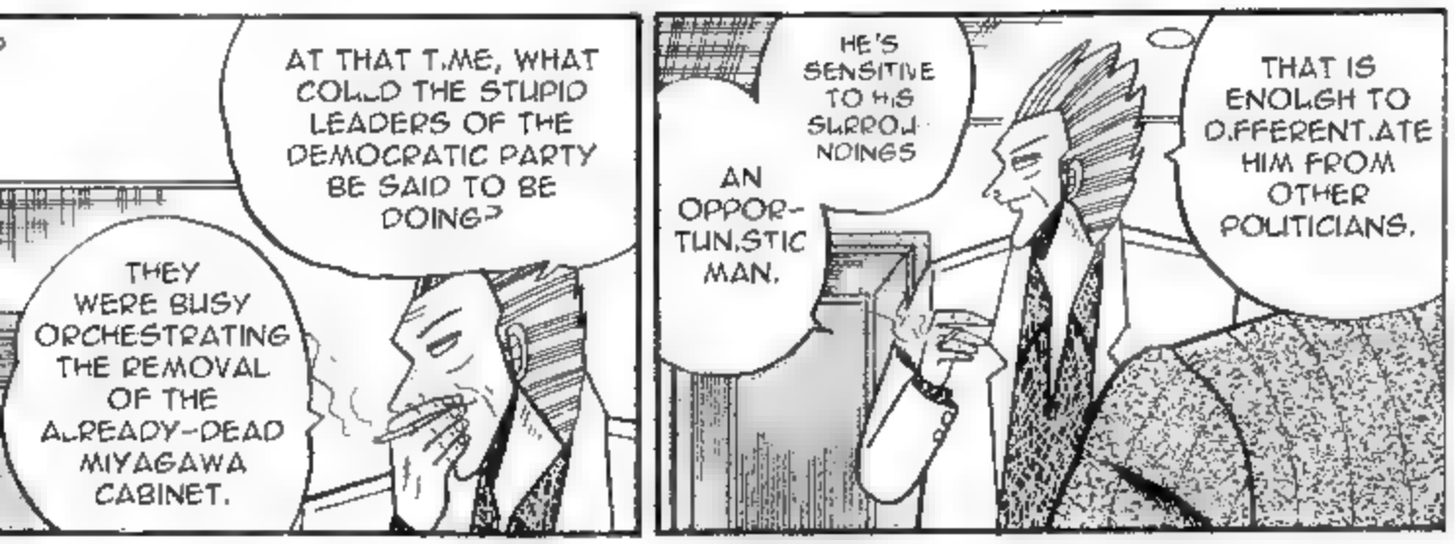
BY THE 19TH, THAT MAN WAS ALREADY MOVING FULL STEAM AHEAD.
THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION CAME OUT ON JULY 18TH.

AFTER...?
YEAH ...

WHAT IMPRESSED ME ABOUT IZAWA ...
ANYWAY,


BUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER ...
...IS NOT THAT HE WON THE ELECTION GAME,

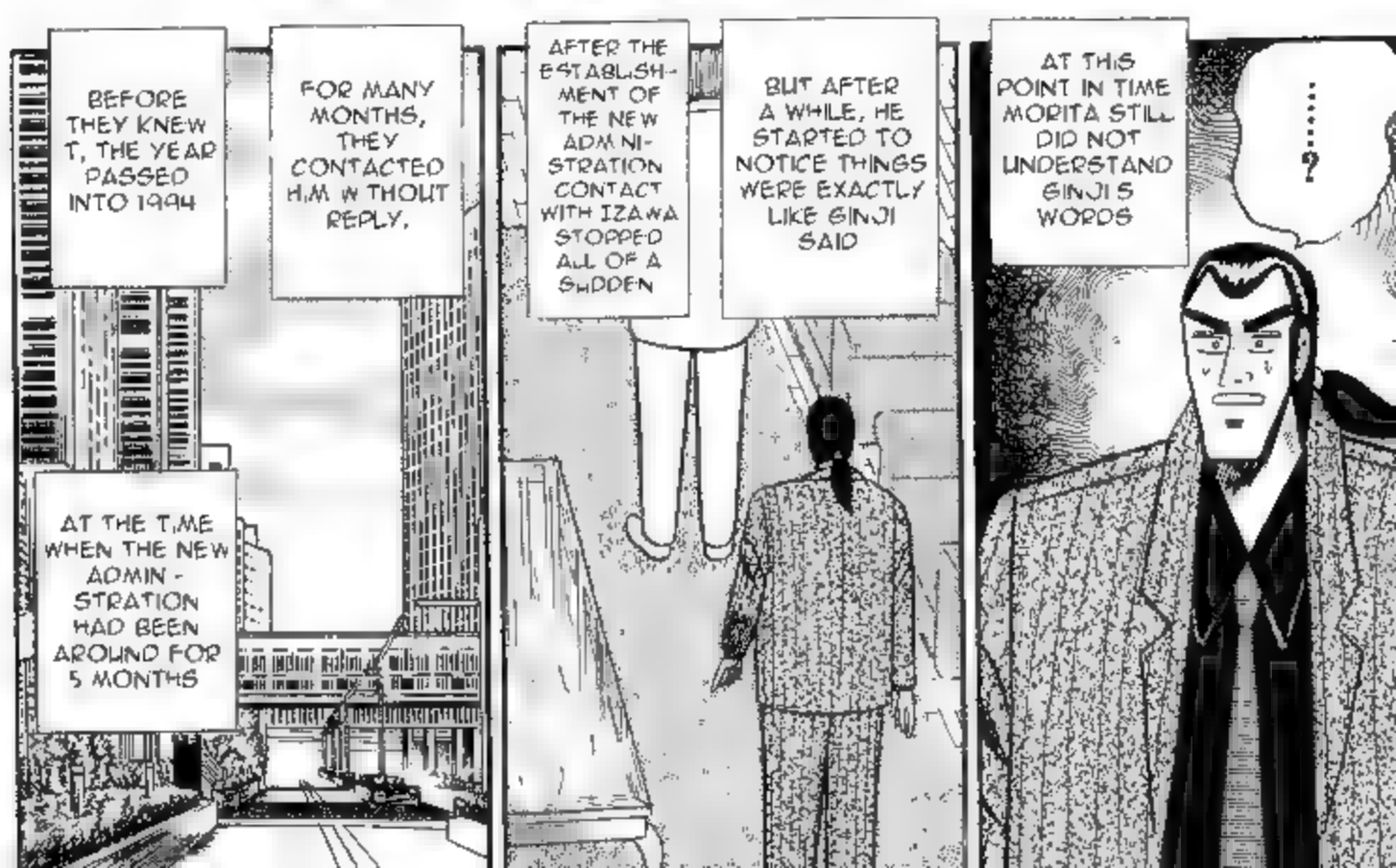
ONCE YOU HAVE PERSUADED THE LABOR PARTY, FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES ARE A SURE THING.
OBVIOUSLY, THIS COALITION CAN'T GROW WITHOUT SEEKING COOPERATION FROM OTHER PARTIES
IN ANY CASE, HE PLANNED AHEAD IN ORDER TO SEIZE THE SUPPORT OF SAYAMA'S GROUPS.
FRANKLY, AT THIS POINT, IT CAN BE SAID ...
HE IS GUARANTEED THE SEAT OF PRIME MINISTER ...
SAYAMA ...
HE CAUGHT THE MAN HOLDING THE KEY TO THE COALITION GOVERNMENT


AT THAT TIME, WHAT COULD THE STUPID LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY BE SAID TO BE DOING?
THEY WERE BUSY ORCHESTRATING THE REMOVAL OF THE ALREADY-DEAD MIYAGAWA CABINET.
HE'S SENSITIVE TO HIS SURROUNDINGS
AN OPPORTUNISTIC MAN.
THAT IS ENOUGH TO DIFFERENTIATE HIM FROM OTHER POLITICIANS.

THAT GUY IS A SPECIALIST AT DIRTY WORK
THEY THOUGHT TOO LITTLE OF IZAWA.
IT WAS EASY ENOUGH TO TRICK THAT OLD MAN IN THE LABOR PARTY
THERE MIGHT BE NO REASON TO EXPECT THE 7 PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TO COME TOGETHER EASILY ...
BUT HE READ IT COMPLETELY DIFFERENTLY
IT'S RIDICULOUS ..
SUCH ENORMOUS FOOLS.

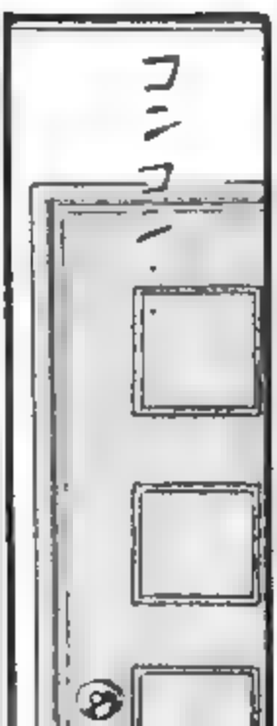
AT ANY RATE, IN REGARDS TO IZAWA,
SINCE WE SUPPORTED THE NEW TRUTH PARTY EVEN BEFORE IT WAS BORN,
IN ANY CASE, THIS IS GOOD FOR US, RIGHT?
BUT ...
WE HAVE A STRONG CONNECT ON TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT... THAT WOULD MEAN... THIS IS...
HA ...

IT'S AFTER THAT
YOU'LL SPEND A TEDIOUS AMOUNT OF TIME CLEARING OUT THE MUD
THAT'S WHEN YOU'LL PROFIT.
THINGS INVOLVING POLITICIANS ARE ALWAYS A LONG BATTLE
LET ME TELL YOU ...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT
FUFU ...
WE CAN CUT TIES WITH SEIKYO!
WE SHOULD GET A STEADY AMOUNT OF MONEY FROM IT


BEFORE THEY KNEW IT, THE YEAR PASSED INTO 1994
FOR MANY MONTHS, THEY CONTACTED HIM WITHOUT REPLY.
AT THE TIME WHEN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN AROUND FOR 5 MONTHS
AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION CONTACT WITH IZAWA STOPPED ALL OF A SUDDEN
BUT AFTER A WHILE, HE STARTED TO NOTICE THINGS WERE EXACTLY LIKE GINJI SAID
AT THIS POINT IN TIME MORITA STILL DID NOT UNDERSTAND GINJI'S WORDS
.....?

THEY FINALLY RECEIVED CONTACT FROM IZAWA.

COME IN ...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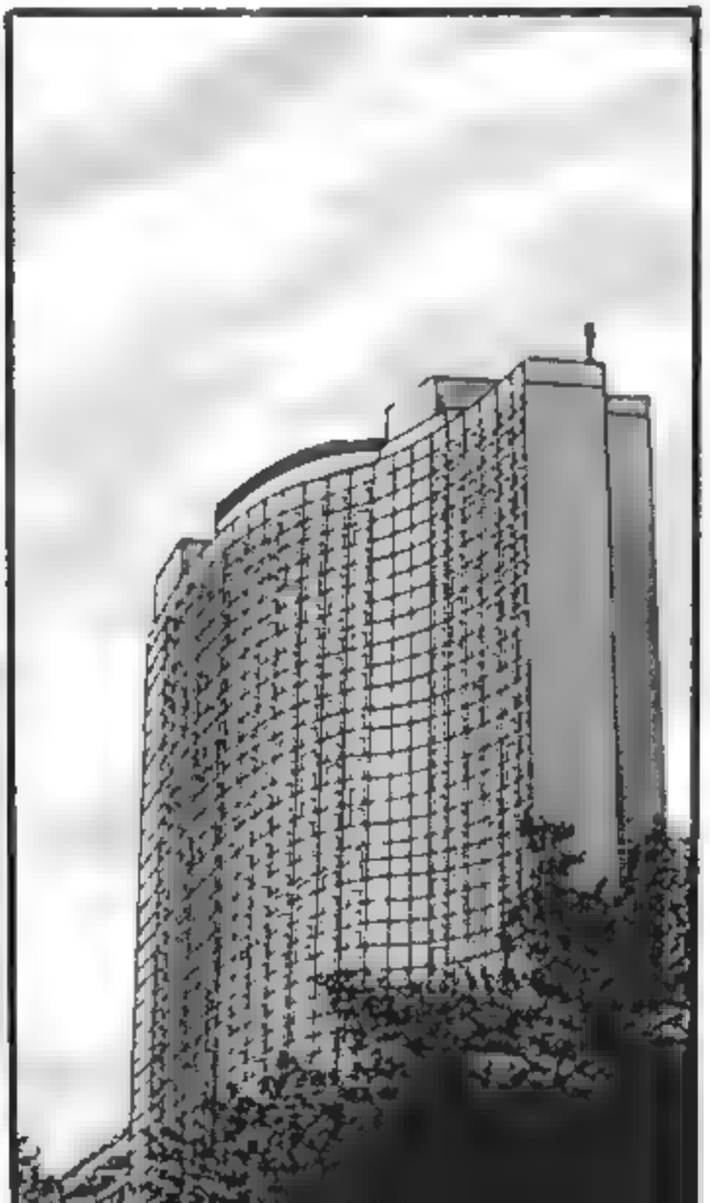


BUT THERE WERE VARIOUS NOSY PEOPLE SNIFFING AROUND
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU SOONER,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, GIN-SAN

.....
TO THE POINT WHERE WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T MEET
NEXT TIME SOMETHING COMES UP, PLEASE PHONE ME.
A MAN SUCH AS MYSELF HOVERING AROUND
...WOULD BE AN INCONVE-NIENCE.
AROUND A FRESH ADMINI-STRATION ...

WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH US...?
SO ...

IN THIS CASE, IT'S A MATTER OF LEGISLATION.
RIGHT NOW, I'M STRUGG-LING WITH SOME-THING
HMM..

ELECTORAL REFORM INVOLVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SINGLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES AND PROPORTIONALLY REPRESENTED MULTIPLE-SEAT CONSTITU-ENCIES
A CASE INVOLVING LEGI-SLATION...?
COULD IT BE THAT KIND OF POLITICAL REFORM LEGI-SLATION...?
THAT'S RIGHT
ASK AWAY ...
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU
IT'S IN RELATION TO THIS POLITICAL REFORM BILL.
鶴と金◆第㊾話◆完

NEXT FEW CHAPTERS ARE GOING TO BE REALLY, REALLY DRY (UNLESS YOU LIKE POLITICS I GUESS). WHICH IS WHY UPDATES ARE SLOWER THAN MOLASSES BECAUSE I CAN'T KEEP MY FOCUS ENOUGH TO TYPESET. GOD BLESS OUR TRANSLATOR FOR PLOWING THROUGH THESE CHAPTERS.

TRY TO BEAR THROUGH IT THOUGH, BEST ARC SOON!!

TRANSLATION:
TEABUN

TYPESETTING:
XA

CLEANING:
SNOOP

第60話

永田町再編のシナリオ

NAGATA-CHOU RESTRUCTURING SCENARIO

THERE ARE TOO MANY INCOMPREHENSIBLE PEOPLE

IN THIS WORLD

THERE IS NO FUTURE IN MY ADMIN STRATION

IF THIS DOESN'T PASS

IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF MY ADMINI-STRATION

THE POLITICAL REFORM BILL THAT I'M TRYING TO PASS

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE THINKING

GIN-SAN, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

.....

PHEW-

TO THINK THAT THIS BILL COULD BE QUASHED BY OPPOS TION FROM OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE LABOR PARTY

IT'S ABSURD

IT IS REGRE-TTABLE

THAT KIND OF PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE IN YOUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE ...

I SEE ...

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THOUGH

FU FU ...

GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT THE RESULTS WILL BE

I'VE ALL BUT GIVEN UP HOPE HERE

TWO OF THEM

THERE ARE THINGS THAT I EARNESTLY WISH TO ASK OF YOU

GIN-SAN ...

THAT IS WHY

I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING AT LEAST

BUT, WELL, THAT IS

I BELIEVE THAT HEAVEN HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

I SEE ...

LET'S CONTACT HIM IMMEDIATELY AND ELIMINATE THAT ISSUE

...WELL, IN THAT CASE

I WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT HIM ON MY CURRENT PROBLEM

ONE OF YOUR BACKERS IS TEIJITSU BANK

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO INTRODUCE ME TO PRESIDENT DOMON

THE FIRST IS ...

帝国銀行

UU ...

IN SHORT, I'D LIKE YOU TO PERSUADE THE MEMBERS OF THE LABOR PARTY WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE BILL

THERE ARE PLACES MY HAND CANNOT REACH

ALTHOUGH I MOVE IN VARIOUS CIRCLES

THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO CONVINCE ABOUT 5 PEOPLE

WELL, REGARDING THIS MATTER, I BELIEVE I SAID THERE WERE TWO THINGS

I HAVE ONE MORE REQUEST FOR YOU

ALL POLITICIANS WILL FLIP-FLOP THEIR OPINIONS IN AN INSTANT

THERE'S NO REASON TO ASSIGN IT TO H M

I WANT YOU TO PERSUADE THESE 5 PEOPLE

BUT TO BRING IN GIN-SAN

I KNEW IT'D BE SOMETHING LIKE THIS ...

WHY HAND IT OVER TO HIM ...?

HERE IT COMES .../

FU FU ...

I SEE ...

.....

.....

.....

THOSE 5 ARE ALL SIMILARLY FISHY

I'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THEM ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EH ...?

I'LL DO IT

IF IT'S THESE FIVE

.....

IT SHOULD BE RELATIVELY EASY

I SEE ...

.....

YOU MUST GET THEM TO COMMIT TO A "YES" VOTE

YOU MUST CHANGE THESE 5 PEOPLE'S MINDS IN 10 DAYS

I THINK IT WILL BE FAIRLY TOUGH

THAT LEAVES ONLY ABOUT 10 DAYS

THERE IS A VOTE ON THE BILL IN THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS ON JANUARY 21ST

THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME

HOWEVER ...

THERE'S A DEADLINE

10 DAYS IS ENOUGH ...

.....

WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT ...?

HEY NOW ...!

.....

WITH THAT RESTR-ICTION

IT'S JUST THAT WE HAVE NO TIME

NO, I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DOUBTING YOU

EH ...?

GIN-SAN ...

IS THIS REALLY OKAY ...?

.....

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT

THEN ARE YOU GOING TO BRIBE THEM ...?

SCANDAL ..?

DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF SCANDALOUS DIRT ON THEM UP YOUR SLEEVE ..?

THAT KIND OF THING IS UNREASONABLE FROM THE GET-GO

CONVINCING 5 PEOPLE IN 10 DAYS

FOR THIS, I HAVE AN OVER-WHELMINGLY EFFECTIVE GUY

THERE ARE CERTAIN WORK-AROUNDS

MORITA ...

WITHOUT USING THAT KIND OF THING

NO, I WON'T BE USING MONEY

? ....

I NEED YOU TO CALL ENDOU

IS THIS TATSUMI ?

E'PI...'

E'PI E'PO

A COPYIST ..?

HE'S A COPYIST

WHO'S ENOUGH ...?

.....

WITH THAT, ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TONIGHT ARE IN PLACE

YEAH ..

DROPPING ONE-BY-ONE OVERNIGHT

ゴロロ...

.....

ONE KILLING PER NIGHT ...!

TEN DAYS IS ENOUGH

THAT NIGHT

A LADY'S PARTY MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS DAZAI NADA

SO YOU'RE HIRAI-KUN

YES
...

THEY SAY THAT YOU RAISED MOST OF THE ELECT ON FUNDS FOR THE NEW TRUTH PARTY DURING LAST YEAR'S GENERAL ELECTION, DON'T THEY?

IZAWA'S UNDERWORLD PARTNER

YOU'RE THE RIGHT-HAND MAN OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE NEW TRUTH PARTY, ATSUSHI IZAWA

I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT YOU

.....

FU FU ...

I HAVE NO SUCH POWER

SO THEY'RE STILL TELLING THAT RIDICULOUS STORY

KU KU ...

HEAR YOU'RE A VERY CLEVER STRATEGIST

IZAWA HAS ENTRUSTED ME WITH THIS LETTER

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK

YOU SEEM LIKE A GENTLEMAN WHO WILL MOST LIKELY UNDERSTAND

YOU SEEM TO ALREADY BE FAMILIAR WITH THE STATUS OF MY AND IZAWA'S RELATIONSHIP

IT'S A SERIOUS MIS-CONCEPTION

IS THAT SO ...?

BUT MEETING UP WITH YOU TODAY LIKE THIS, INADA-SENSEI

WAS AN HONEST RELIEF

A LETTER ...?

.....

!!

++

UU--N

IS THIS FOR CERTAIN ...?

THERE IS NO MISTAKE

THIS IS ...

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL GOES UP FOR VOTE

NEEDLESS TO SAY

ヒヤ…

ハァ…

HOW-EVER …

YOU MUST VOTE IN FAVOR OF IT

……

……

UNDER-STOOD

……

……

……

I NEED A GUARANTEE BEFOREHAND

WHAT DO YOU WANT, YOU BASTARD ?

EH ...?

I STILL CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT

HOLD ON ...

I'LL DO IT ...!

...I'D NEVER DO THAT...!

YES

YOU PROBABLY WOULD NOT

IN THE CASE THAT YOU BETRAY US AND GO PUBLIC WITH IT

WE WILL BE LEFT PLAYING THE FOOL

NOW, IF I HAND THIS LETTER OVER TO YOU

GUARANTEE ..?

CORRECT

IN THE UPCOMING VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS

THIS GUARANTEE IS, TO PUT IT SIMPLY

ON THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL

A GUARANTEE BEFOREHAND

BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE YOU THIS LETTER WHEN ALL YOU'VE DONE IS SAY "YES, I WON'T DO THAT"

I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD DO THAT

.....

YOU MUST CAST A VOTE IN FAVOR ...!

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE MORE RELIABLE

IF IT WAS REVEALED THAT YOU SOLD YOUR VOTE, YOUR POLITICAL LIFE WOULD BE OVER

THEN OUR INTERESTS ARE COMPLETELY ALIGNED

YOU WILL NOT EXPOSE THIS LETTER TO THE WORLD

IF, AFTER CASTING THE VOTE, WE ARE, SO TO SPEAK, STILL BIRDS OF A FEATHER

YES ...

.....

.....

MY LOGIC ...?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND

ATSUSHI IZAWA IS VERY ENVIABLE ...

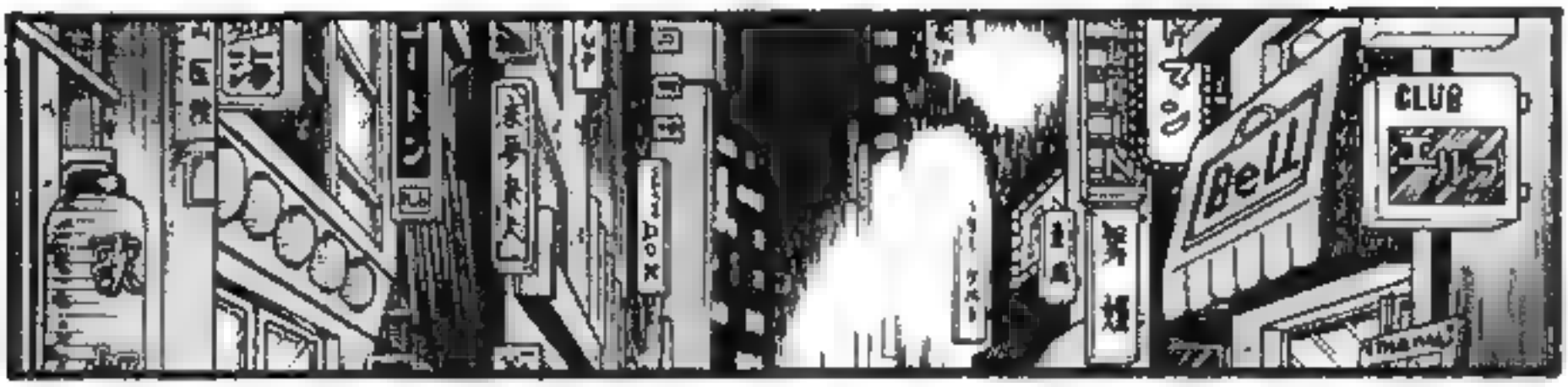
KU KU ...

I WOULDN'T BE STAGNATING IN THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS AT THIS POINT

IF I HAD CHANCED UPON THE BLADE NAMED "GINJI" 10 YEARS EARLIER

IZAWA HAS A GOOD "BLADE"

KU KU KU ...



FU FU ...

THAT LETTER ...

HEY GIN-SAN, WHAT DID IT HAVE WRITTEN ON IT ?

THAT POLITICIAN GUY

SOMEHOW, AFTER SHOWING HIM THAT PIECE OF PAPER

IT WAS SHOCKINGLY EASY TO GET HIM TO CHANGE SIDES

WHAT ...?

WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT ...

Peeks

.....

HERE

IS IT REALLY OKAY ?

1104...

IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, HE'S GUARANTEED A SEAT IN THE SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCY ...?

uary 21st, 1994

plenary session

ouse of Councilors

you cast a yes vote in the vote

for the political reform bil

in return you will be granted

the single member

BUT IT CAN'T HAPPEN 'N THE NEXT ELECTION, BECAUSE THEY'RE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LABOR PARTY AND THE SYSTEM WON'T ALLOW THAT

AS PART OF THE OPPOSIT ON, OBTAINING THE APPO NTMENT IS ALMOST UNHEARD OF

THOSE 5 PEOPLE THAT IZAWA ASSIGNED ME

IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, THEY'RE AIMING TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FU FU ...

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ...?

SINCE THEY'D HAVE THE LEADER OF THE NEW TRUTH PARTY, ATSUSHI IZAWA'S GUARANTEE

THE COMPETITION FOR THOSE SEATS WOULD BE CUTTHROAT

THEY WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE IN THE ELECT ON

THE BIL WOULD INTRODUCE THE PRECIOUSLY SMALL AMOUNT OF 250 SEATS

PREVIOUSLY, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAY FOR THEM TO DO IT

THIS SORT OF THING ...

THERE'S NO WAY IZAWA WROTE IT

GIN-SAN, WHEN DID YOU GET THIS LETTER FROM IZAWA ...?

BUT ...

STUPID

IT MAKES SENSE THAT THEY'D SNAP IT UP

HAA ...

EH ...?

EH-!?

THAT LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY THAT COPYIST TO EXACTLY IMITATE IZAWA'S HANDWRITING

YEAH ...

SO IT'S TOTALLY BOGUS ...?

B... BUT...

ほーぜん

HAA ...

NATURALLY HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT

THEN, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT IZAWA ...

SFX. 'STUNNED'

THAT'S THE BEST PART OF THIS FAKE LETTER

MORITA ...

FU FU ...

IS THAT REALLY OKAY...? ACTING ON YOUR OWN WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT

LET ME CLARIFY

EH ...?

ACTING ON MY OWN... IT LIES IN THAT FACT

BECAUSE HE REALLY KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT IT

IZAWA WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL HIM ANYTHING

HE CAN CONTINUE TO CLAIM IGNORANCE

HE MIGHT PROTEST TO IZAWA

OF COURSE, INADA WILL RAISE A FUSS

BUT ...

THE FACT THAT IZAWA KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT

IT WON'T REACH IZAWA

THE WRONGDOING STOPS WITH ME

THAT'S FINE

.....

IN THE END, THAT GUY CAN DO NOTHING BUT CURSE MY NAME

A TICKET FROM THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THIS VALUABLE TICKET ....

AT ANY RATE ...

HAA ...

THAT'S OUR JOB ...

THE IDEA OF FORCING YOURSELF IN THERE ALL OF A SUDDEN

FOR SUCH A PETTY OFFICIAL, IT'S NATURAL HE'D BE SWEPT OFF HIS FEET BY THAT IDEA

TO WIN A SEAT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, LEGISLATORS PUT ALL OF THEIR CONNECTIONS, MONEY, AND INTELLIGENCE ON THE LINE

FROM A PETTY OFFICIAL

AT MOST, IT CAN BUY A SINGLE VOTE

FU FU ...

GIN-SAN ...!

AH ...

BECAUSE

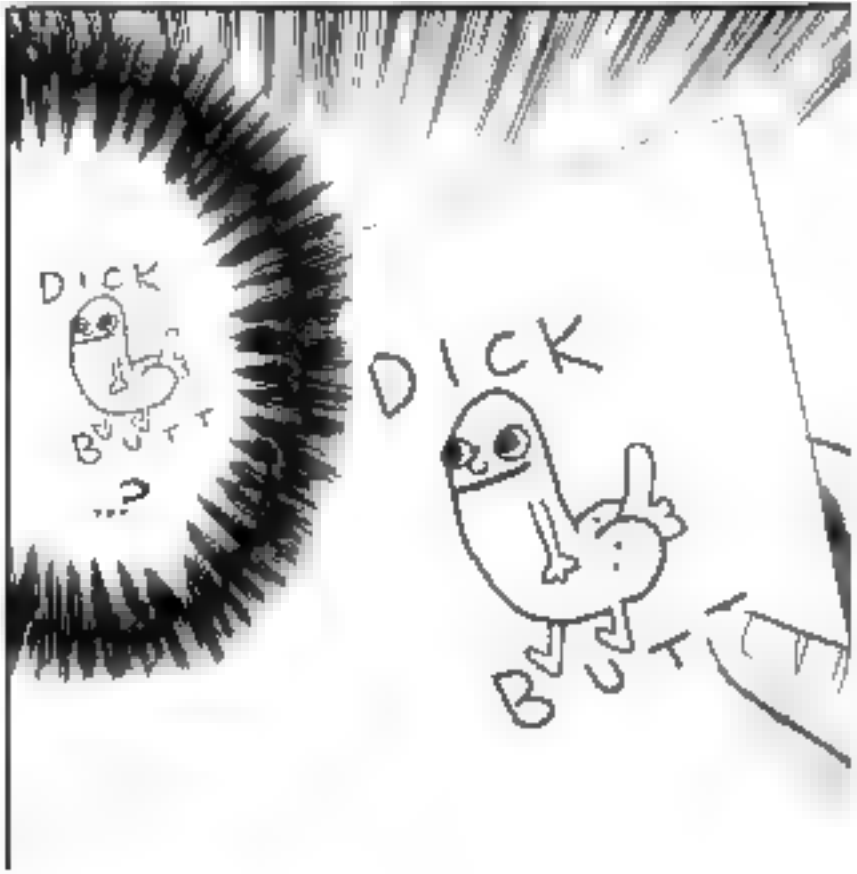
IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM

I'LL ALSO HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT

EVEN IF THAT MAN COMPLAINS TO ME

NEVER EXISTED TO BEGIN WITH ...

THAT LETTER ...



I'M SURE NO ONE SAW THAT COMING

TRANSLATION:
TEABUN

SPECIAL GUEST PINCH HITTER TYPESETTING!!!:
TEABUN

CLEANING:
SNOOP

第61話

裏工作
MONKEY BUSINESS

THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL ...!

IT MUST PASS ...!

IT WILL LEAD TO EITHER LIFE OR DEATH FOR THE COALITION GOVERNMENT

ARE EQUAL

THE CHANCES OF THE BILL PASSING OR NOT

FOR THE SAYAMA COALITION GOVERNMENT

IT IS NOT A BILL THAT CAN BE FINALIZED IN SUCH A WAY

IT'S SOMETHING THAT MUST BE DECIDED IN ONE SHOT

IT MUST BE A FORCEFUL BREAK-THROUGH

THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR DISCUSSING AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL

PUBLICLY, TO THE OPPOSITION PARTY, IZAWA HAS HINTED

THAT IS MERELY POSTURING

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY

IT'S HIS FATE TO WIN ...!

IT'S FATE ...

ON JANUARY 21ST, A VOTE WILL BE HELD DURING THEIR REGULAR SESSION

ON JANUARY 20TH, THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS WILL REVIEW THE GOVERNMENT REFORM AMENDMENT VIA A SPECIAL COMMITTEE

HE WILL WIN THIS VOTE

GINJI ALSO BEGINS TO MOVE

IN RESPONSE TO HIS APPOINTMENT BY IZAWA

THAT STATES THAT IZAWA PROMISES THEM A SEAT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRE-SENTATIVES

HE SHOWS THEM THE FAKE LETTER

HE PERSUADES THOSE WHO WISH TO MOVE FROM THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HE USES THE SAME METHODS THAT HE USED TO PERSUADE THE FIRST ONE, INADA

HE PERSUADES THEM ONE BY ONE

LEGISLATORS FROM THE LABOR PARTY WHO ARE LIKELY TO OPPOSE THE BILL

THE TASK WAS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY

BY THE 17TH, HE HAD CONVINCED EACH OF THE 5 PEOPLE SPECIFIED BY IZAWA

BUT ...

ON THE 19TH, BEFORE THE VOTE

THE SITUATION WAS ONE THAT THEY HADN'T PREDICTED

ONE MUST HAVE FAKED THEIR INTEREST

OF THE 5 PEOPLE THAT I CONVINCED

THIS IS BAD ...

.....

WAS LEAKED

THE FACT THAT GINJI WAS APPOINTED BY IZAWA TO TRICK THE LABOR PARTY

BUT

WITH AN UNCONFIRMED RUMOR, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SOME WILL STILL SUPPORT THE BILL

IN NO TIME, THIS RUMOR

HAS SPREAD AMONGST THE LABOR PARTY LAWMAKERS

PHEW-

.....

.....

WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHERS IN OPPPOSITION, THE RESULTS WILL BE THE SAME

EVEN IF MANAGED TO SECURE THOSE 5 VOTES

IT WON'T PASS

THE LABOR PARTY LEGISLATORS WILL LIKELY OPPOSE IT NOW

THE TROUBLE S

WITH THIS RUMOR, THE RESENTMENT THEY HAVE TOWARD IZAWA WILL CONTINUE TO SOLIDIFY

WHY DID IT LEAK IN THE FIRST PLACE ?

BUT

.....

THERE'S NO REASON FOR THE LAWMAKERS YOU PERSUADED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT AND WHY WOULD IT ONLY COME OUT JUST NOW?

.....

IS THIS GIN-SAN ...?

IT'S DOMON

THIS IS HIRAI

HELLO ...

SFX RING RING RING

PRESIDENT ...?

YEAH ...

.....

IS IZAWA CERTAIN TO SUCCEED HERE..?

IS IT GOING TO PASS?

WHAT'S GOING ON ...?

I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU FOR A SECOND

PRESIDENT

DID YOU SUPPORT THIS GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL BY GIVING MONEY TO IZAWA?

TH.S GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL

AND EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO COOPERATE TEMPORARILY

HAVE A LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

THERE'S NO WAY I'D DECIDE TO SUPPORT IZAWA'S SIDE

I CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE HIM ANYTHING

ABSOLUTELY NOT

NO ...

I DIDN'T GIVE HIM ANYTHING!

INTRODUCED HIM TO SOME

BECAUSE I HAD A GOOD IMPRESSION OF IZAWA

THAT'S ALL

COM-PANIES?

HE WANTED TO BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOME AMERICAN COMPANIES

I WAS ASKED TO MEET W TH IZAWA

IT LOOKS LIKE WITH JUST YOUR REFERRAL

IS A PRELUDE, SO TO SPEAK, TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

HE SEEMS TO HAVE ASKED FOR THEIR COOPERATION

THE PASSING OF THIS REFORM BILL

HE WAS PLANNING ON GATHERING THEM FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES

FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTION, FOR HIS CAMPAIGN FUNDS

IT DID ...

SO WHILE YOU WERE TALKING, THIS CAME UP ...?

I SEE ...

.....

YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T GIVE HIM ANY MONEY

BUT APART FROM THAT, DOES IT REALLY EVEN MATTER TO YOU?

THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD AFFORD TO

I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA

NO... I WON'T HIDE IT

WELL ...

SO... HOW ABOUT IT..? IS THE BILL LIKELY TO PASS ...?

IS $1 BILLION, AROUND 100 BILLION YEN ...!

BUT THE MONEY HE SAID WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN COMPANIES

THAT MUCH I COULD HAVE MANAGED ...

THAT IS, FOR THE CURRENT BILL, IT'S SAID THAT HE'S RAKED IN ABOUT 3 TO 5 BILLION

I JUST COULDN'T AGREE TO THIS WITH SOMEONE I DON'T EVEN KNOW

ONCE HE STARTED TALKING ABOUT 100

100 ...?

YEAH ...

USING THAT KIND OF MONEY

TO CONVINCE THE LABOR PARTY AND DESTROY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ..

THAT WOULD BE IMPOSS BLE

BUT ...

NORMALLY

IT SEEMS UNLIKELY, HUH

IN OTHER WORDS, HE ISN'T JUST FUNNELING THE MONEY INTO THE AMENDMENT BILL, RIGHT...?

HE WON'T DIE A DEATH WHERE HE LEAVES ANYTHING REMAINING ... SO I THINK

FOR THIS GUY, IT'S THE KIND OF MATCH WHERE THERE IS NO AFTER..!

EVEN IF THIS BILL PASSES, AFTER ALL THAT PRETENSE

HE'LL GO BANKRUPT

HE'LL GO BANKRUPT

THAT'S NUTS ...

JUST TO WIN ...

HE'S INVESTING IT ...?

GIN-SAN ...!

HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD

HE KNOWS IT'S CRAZY ... ...

100 BILLION ...?

WHAT THE HELL ...

HE KNOWS THIS INSIDE

IF IT DOESN'T PASS, HE'LL BE RUINED

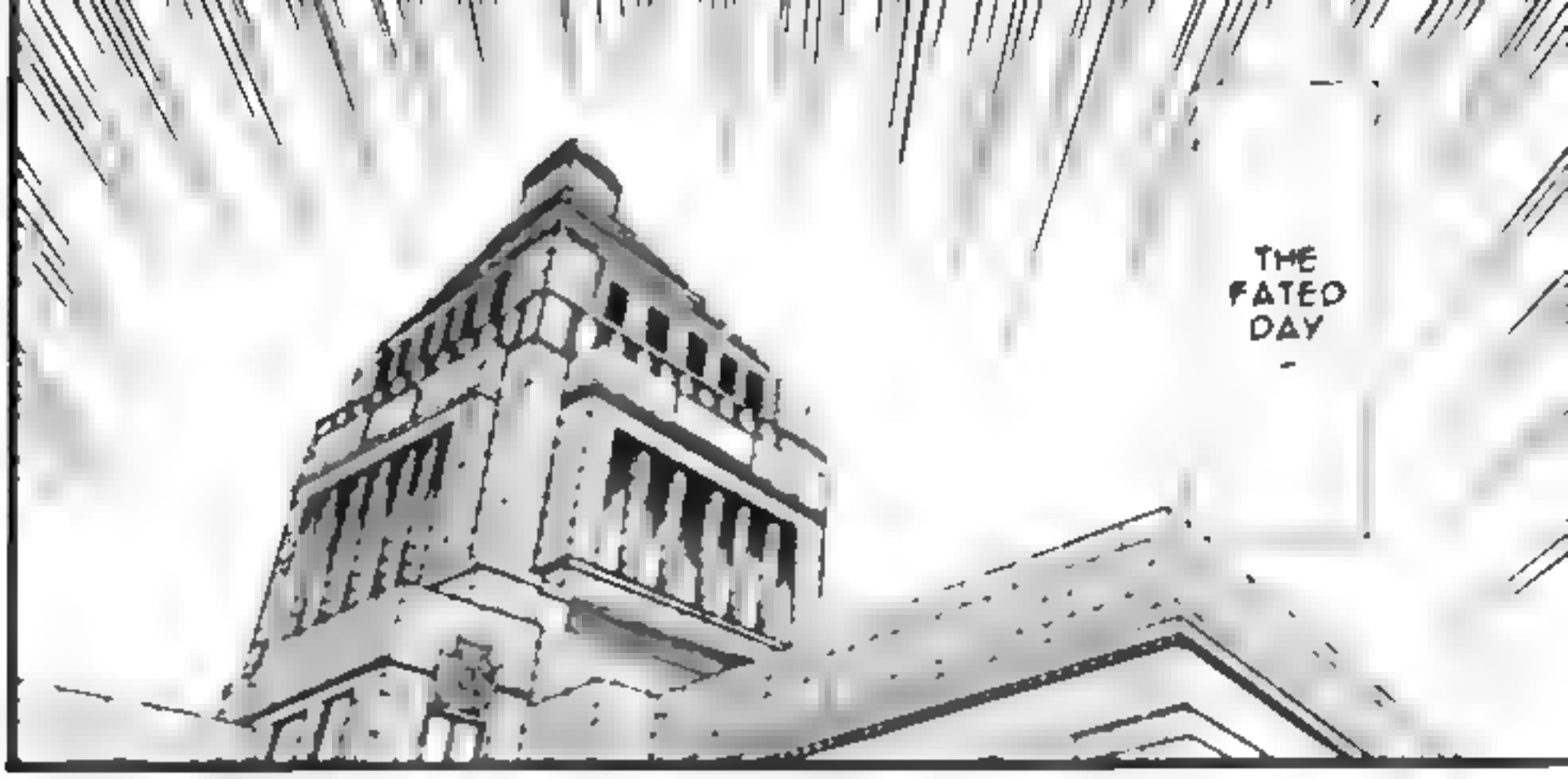
HE'S ENTRUSTED HIS FUTURE TO THIS BILL

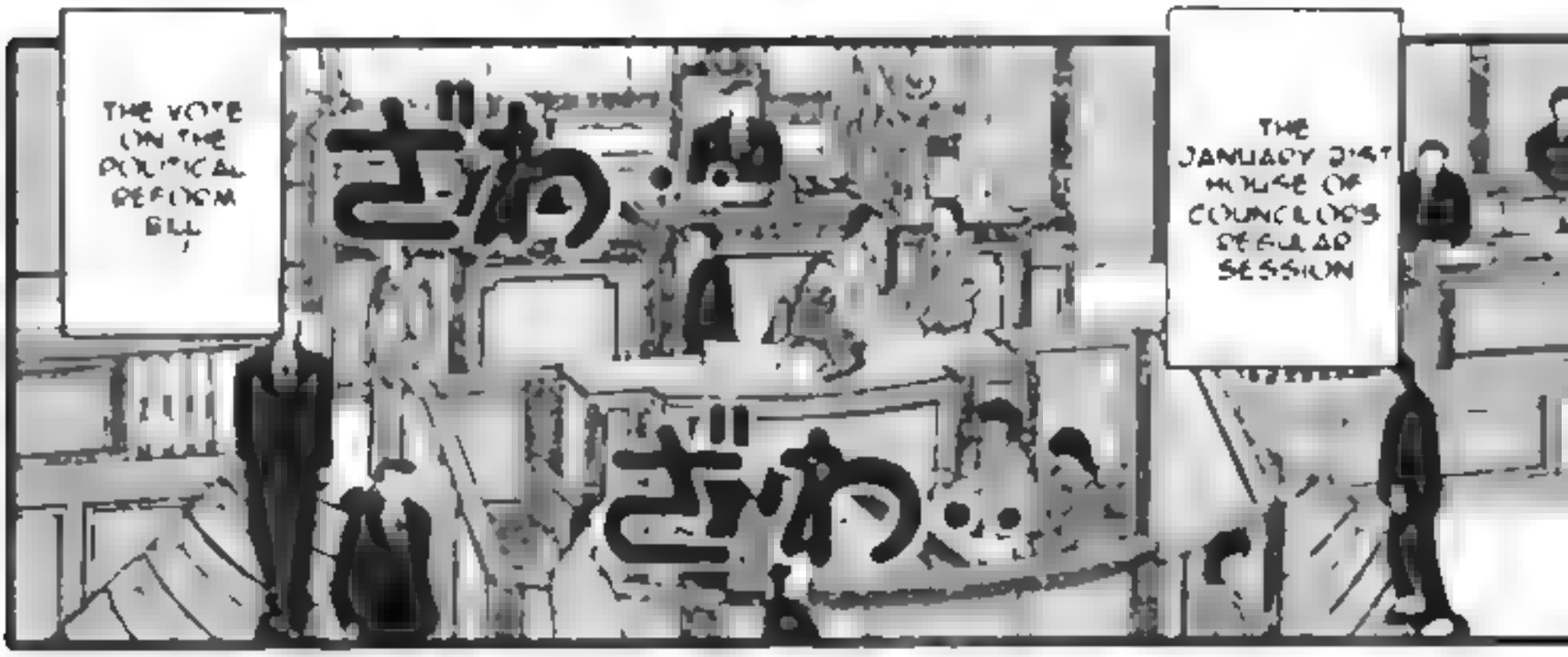
HE MUST DESPERATELY BREAK THROUGH THE MIDDLE!

WILL IZAWA'S UNRELENTING TENACITY BEAR FRUIT ...?

GIN-SAN ... ...

THAT'S FUCKED UP ...


THE FATED DAY


THE VOTE ON THE POLITICAL REFORM BILL
ざわ・・・
ざわ・・・
THE JANUARY 21ST HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS REGULAR SESSION

THE POLITICAL REFORM BILL THAT WAS THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IS ALL TOO EASILY
4PM
LDP AND DAILY LAWMAKERS VOTED AGAINST IT ONE AFTER ANOTHER
DEPARTMENT HEADS OF ZANU & BOTH HOUSE MEMBERS WAS STRONGER THAN EXPECTED
HOWEVER THE RESULTS WERE DISMAL
IT WAS IZAWA'S DEAREST WISH

REJECTED ...!

.....

IZAWA ...

HE LOST ...

NO WAY ...

118 IN FAVOR, 130 OPPOSED... IT'S REJECTED...! THE GOVERMENT REFORM BILL HAS BEEN REJECTED ...!

THAT NIGHT -

HELLO ...

SFX. RING RING RING

トゥルルル..

.....

URGENTLY NEED TO MEET WITH YOU AND IZAWA ONCE MORE

IT'S DOMON

IS THIS SIN-SAN ?

THAT IS A RIDICULOUS MIS-UNDERSTANDING

AND THEN, HOW MUCH OF THE MONEY I GATHERED WAS USED FOR BRIBERY .. YOU ASKED

IT REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY

FIRST OF ALL, TO BUY A YES VOTE FROM 20 OR 30 PEOPLE, YOU HAVE TO SCATTER MONEY FREELY

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT GET ANY MONEY, THEIR INTENSE RESENTMENT MAKES IT A POOR STRATEGY

IN REGARDS TO THE PASSING OF THE BILL

I THOUGHT THE PROBABILITY WAS HIGH

PLEASE REST ASSURED

ABOUT HOW MUCH IS ALRIGHT TO SAY

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED

BUT I UNDERSTAND YOUR WORRIES

SO LET ME START WITH THE FIRST ONE

OF THIS SUM, HOW MUCH WAS USED TOWARDS PASSING THE REFORM BILL?

THE SECOND IS IN REGARDS TO THE 100 BILLION YOU GOT FROM THE AMERICAN COMPANIES

THOSE ARE MY QUESTIONS

IN OTHER WORDS, HOW MUCH WAS USED FOR BRIBES?

IS THE REJECTION OF THE REFORM BILL IN THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS SOMETHING THAT YOU ACTUALLY EXPECTED?

THAT'S THE FIRST THING

IZAWA-SAN

BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME TODAY

I'LL BLUNTLY ASK YOU THESE TWO THINGS

ONE PERSON ...?

YOU ONLY NEED TO BRIBE ONE PERSON

TO PASS THIS BILL

....

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO USE BRIBERY HERE

BUT STILL

AND ONCE YOU'VE DECIDED TO USE BRIBERY

カラン

PLEASE COME THIS WAY

THERE'S A TELEPHONE CALL FOR YOU

IZAWA-SENSEI ...

THIS IS A SLEEPLESS NIGHT WHERE I MUST PUSH MYSELF TO THE LIMIT

PLEASE EXCUSE ME

SORRY, GIN-SAN

PRESIDENT

I SEE ...

十一

十二

十三

FU FU ...

.....

PLEASE COME THIS WAY

FUFU ...

BUSINESS ...?

I ALSO HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF BUS NESS TO ATTEND TO

PRESIDENT, WE'LL ALSO BE TAKING OUR LEAVE

FIRST OF ALL, CAN YOU TRUST THE WORDS THAT CAME FROM THE MOUTH OF THE GUY WHO INTERRUPTED US..?

NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT

H S REAL INTENT ONS WERE PROBABLY DIFFERENT

GIN-SAN, DID SOMETHING PING YOUR INTEREST? IN THE MIDDLE OF IZAWA'S STORY, I MEAN

EH ...?

HAVE BEGUN BUBBLING OVER

VARIOUS THINGS IN THE UNDERWORLD

THEN ...

IZAWA SHOWED NO SIGNS OF BEING CORNERED

THAT WAS NOT THE FACE OF A MAN WHO'D BEEN DEFEATED

EH ...?

IT'S TRUE THAT THE BILL DIDN'T PASS, RIGHT...?

BUT, PRESIDENT

...?

PROBABLY MORE LIKE 100%

NO ...

THAT WAS THE FACE OF A MAN WHO WAS 80% SURE THAT HE'D WIN ...

ONE WEEK LATER, JANUARY 28TH

IT WILL ALL BECOME CLEAR

AT THIS TIME, THE PRESIDENT

COULD NOT CONNECT THE DOTS BETWEEN GINJI'S WORDS AND ZAWA'S CONFIDENCE

100% ...?

SUDDENLY, THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL THAT HAD STALLED OUT ....

AN AGREEMENT WAS MADE AT THE TOP ...

UU ...

.....

IT WAS APPROVED AT THE TOP ...!

IS HEADED FOR ESTAB-LISHMENT

SFX RING RING RING

W...WAS THAT IT...?

.....

IT'S DOMON ...

YES ...

TARGETING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S PRESIDENT, YOICHI KONO

IZAWA SAID HE ONLY NEEDED TO BRIBE ONE PERSON

IT WAS THAT, WASN'T IT?

GIN-SAN ...

OOH ...!

PRESIDENT, HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE TV ...?

,,,,,

KU KU ...

MEANING A SINGLE PERSON WOULD BE ENOUGH

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IZAWA SAID

YOU REPEATED IT PERFECTLY ...

YOU'RE STILL SHARP, PRESIDENT

ISN'T IT A FACT THAT HE TARGETED YOICHI KONO?

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT ...?

BUT THIS APPROVAL DIDN'T HAPPEN LIKE THAT

KU KU KU ...

AM I WRONG ...? GIN-SAN!

BUT IT'S A FACT

EH ...?

I'M ACTUALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF A JOB RIGHT NOW

SORRY, PRESIDENT ...

I CAN PROBABLY MAKE A LITTLE TIME THIS WEEKEND

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO TALK

ABOUT THE SLAPSTICK COMEDY SURROUNDING THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL BEHIND THE SCENES

I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT THEN

HELLO, GIN-SAN ...

GIN-SAN ...

カチャ ……

……

カーチナッ

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL ...?

TRANSLATION/TYPESETTING: TEABUN

CLEANING: SNOOP

第62話 政治家と株

POLITICIANS AND STOCKS

IT'S DOMON ...

GIN-SAN ...

PLEASE COME IN ...

ALRIGHT ...

FU FU ...

GIN-SAN ...

EH ...?

MONEY ...?

IN RELATION TO THE POLITICAL REFORM BILL

OVER THE LAST WEEK, I WAS ABLE TO EARN A LITTLE BIT

FU FU ...

WHAT'S THE STORY ...

BEHIND THIS POLITICAL REFORM BILL ...?

WELL, LET'S GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT

FU FU ...

IT'S QUITE A BIT, ISN'T IT?

.....

.....

FIRST, LET ME SUM THINGS UP

THEN, I'LL SAY IT CLEARLY

FU FU ...

UNLIKE YOU, GIN-SAN, I'M NOT GOOD WITH THINGS THAT ARE TOO COMPLICATED

I'LL ASK YOU TO BE STRAIGHT-FORWARD

SIMPLY, IT WAS A RACE TO SEE WHO WOULD BE THE ONE TO COMPLETE IT

D... DECIDED ...?

YES ...

ITS PASSING WAS DECIDED FROM THE BEGINNING

THIS MESSY, COMICAL REFORM BILL

YES ...

A COM-PLETION RACE ...?

I DON'T KNOW IF A SECRET AGREEMENT WAS MADE

BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT YOUICHI KONO AND IZAWA

THE TOP OFFICIALS AGREED UPON A SYSTEM WHERE THE SMALL CONSTITUENCY OF 300 AND THE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF 200 ARE SIDE BY SIDE

THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS VOTED AGAINST IT AFTER

THE TWO CAME TO SOME SORT OF CONSENSUS

BUT AT LEAST BEFORE THE VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS

IS PERFECTLY CONSISTENT WITH THE NUMBER THAT IZAWA'S NEW TRUTH PARTY HAD ADVOCATED

THE AMOUNT OF SEATS IN THE SMALL CONSTITUENCY OF 300 AND THE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF 200

THIS IS GOOD FOR IZAWA

IS IT TRUE...? THAT ...

BUT

IT CERTAINLY IS

TH.. THANKS

HERE ...

AND IF IT'S DONE BY CREATING A LOOPHOLE FROM POLITICAL DONATIONS

MEANWHILE, EVEN IF THEY SPLIT IT 300/200, IT'S CLOSE TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S PROPOSAL OF 300/171

THEY CAN HARDLY COMPLAIN

THAT WAS HIS INTENT

300/200

IT WAS MERELY A COMPROMISE MEANT TO PERSUADE THE LABOR PARTY

IT WASN'T IZAWA'S REAL INTENTION

THE RULING COALITION'S PLAN TO MAKE IT 250/250

HE WOULD WANT TO INTRODUCE A SMALL ELECTORAL SYSTEM

IN ORDER TO CLEAN UP THE GEEZERS WHO ARE CLINGING TO THEIR COZY MEDIUM-SIZED CONSTITUENCY

PARTICULARLY, PRESIDENT KONO

.....

FU FU ...

NN~, THAT COULD BE TRUE ...

.....

THE INTERESTS OF THOSE TWO MATCH UP

HAH ...

KONO WANTED THE BILL TO PASS THROUGH TOO

KONO AND IZAWA ..

I WAS FOOLED AT FIRST, TOO

I WAS IZAWA'S CLEVER PLAN TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE

CONCERNING THAT DIRTY WORK, IT REALLY SEEMS LIKE

KU KU KU ...

YOU DID SOME DIRTY WORK, RIGHT ...?

GOING TO USE YOU TO ENSNARE THE LABOR PARTY?

BUT WASN'T IZAWA

THE SECRET AGREEMENT WAS STRICTLY BETWEEN KONO AND IZAWA

A TWO PERSON ONLY AGREEMENT

YEAH ...

PLAYED YOU ...?

THAT GUY PLAYED ME LIKE A DAMN FIDDLE

.....

.....

? .....

BECAUSE OF THIS, INFORMATION ABOUT MY DIRTY WORK WAS PASSED ALONG TO THE LABOR PARTY

HE NEEDED TO MAKE A SHOW OF PUTTING AN EFFORT INTO THE PASSING OF THE BILL AT THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS

AS FOR IZAWA'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE MATTER ...

YEAH ...

PASSED ...?

HE USED ME TO MAINTAIN THE ILLUSION

IT TURNS OUT THAT IZAWA HIMSELF HAD LEAKED IT

IT'S A PRETTY STUPID STORY, HUH?

I COULD NEVER UNDER-STAND SUCH A THING

WITHOUT KNOWING ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE

THERE WAS NO REASON THAT THE POLITICIANS I PERSUADED SHOULD TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT

I FELT COMPLETELY CONFUSED

AT FIRST, IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE

THAT TRICK INVOLVING BAITING THE POLITICIANS WITH A SEAT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HE USED ME FOR THAT END

ゴト..

HE WANTED THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS TO REJECT THE BILL AT ALL COSTS

IN OTHER WORDS, IZAWA WANTED TO PROTECT HIS MEETING WITH KONO

HE'S A VILLAIN WHO'S JUST AS BAD AS ME, ENOUGH FOR ME TO ADMIRE HIM

IZAWA USED US TO SOLIDIFY IT

KUKUKU, IT'S A PRETTY CLEVER PLAN, RIGHT?

.....

IF THEY GOT WORD OF SUCH A THING, IT WOULD INCREASINGLY TURN THE POLITICIANS AGAINST IZAWA

HE LEAKED THE INFORMATION TO THE LABOR PARTY

ざわ..

.....

IN OTHER WORDS, THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS' REJECT ON

HE CREATED OPPOSIT ON TO THE BILL

ごあ

ごあ

FU FU ...

IZAWA, I MEAN ...

HE WAS LEADING YOU AROUND BY THE NOSE ...?

THEN ...

.....

BUT

IZAWA DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THAT

USUALLY, THIS DOESN'T FIT WITH BEING A POLITICIAN

IZAWA IS A CURIOUS MAN

ALL THEY CARE ABOUT IS PUTTING ON A GOOD FACE

I WAS THOROUGHLY USED

IT'S JUST MEANS TO AN END

MANAGING TO WIN LIKE THAT

IT'S A PRINCIPLE BASED ON RESULTS

THIS IS THE ROOT OF IZAWA'S STRONG-ARM STRATEGY

SOMEONE WITH THAT ABILITY LEADS PEOPLE EASILY

THAT EVIL IS PROOF OF YOUR ABILITY

FOR EXAMPLE, SOMEONE WHO JUST RATTLES OFF LIP SERVICE TO SOMETHING

AFTER YOU INCREASE YOUR EVILNESS

RATHER, IT'S THE OPPOSITE

YOU EVENTUALLY COME TO A PLACE WHERE IT REACHES EQUILIBRIUM

THEY HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BILL'S PARTICULARS

SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO ...?

AFTER THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS REJECTED THE BILL, THE RACE TO GET IT APPROVED BY TOP OFFICIALS

IZAWA ELECTED TO FOCUS ON RESULTS

SO, PRESIDENT

FROM HERE ON IS THE CRUX OF THE STORY

LET'S DISCUSS IT

FU FU ...

WELL ...?

?.....

EH ...?

WHAT ACTION DO YOU THINK IS BEST ...?

DO YOU REMEMBER ...? ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO

FU FU ...

GIN-SAN ...

FROM THE START, THAT'S A STRANGE AMOUNT TO BORROW

THE PROBLEM WAS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY

AND THEN TO USE SUCH AN ACQUISITION IS TOO UNUSUAL

100 BILLION

IZAWA WAS ABLE TO PULL FROM THE U.S COMPANIES

BEFORE THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS VOTE

WITH YOUR INTRO-DUCTION

おのれ…

IZAWA'S AIM WAS DIFFERENT

IN OTHER WORDS

STOCK INVEST-MENTS ...!

IT'S STOCKS ...

FU FU ...

DIFFERENT ...?

THEY RESPONDED TO THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS' REJECTION ON THE 21ST

TO THE UNCERTAINTY INVOLVED WITH THE AMENDMENT BILL

STOCK PRICES WERE SENSITIVE

YEAH ...

STOCKS ...?

THE TOP LEADERS AGREE TO ESTABLISH THE BILL A WEEK LATER

IN TURN,

FROM 19,307 YEN TO 18,353 YEN, A 954 YEN DEPRECIATION

THE 24TH (MONDAY): THE STOCK MARKET DIVES

東証株価が急落

時960円以上も

THE RELATION OF THE AMENDMENT BILL

.....

FROM 18,758 YEN TO 20,229 YEN, A 1,471 YEN INCREASE

A SPIKE

COULD BE SEEN BY ANY AMATEUR

IT'S A SIMPLE MARKET-PLACE PRINCIPLE

TO THE MOVEMENT OF THE STOCK MARKET

HE INVESTED

THAT'S RIGHT ...

THEN ...

CERTAINLY WOULD NEVER MISS THIS CHANCE

THE OPPOR-TUNISTIC IZAWA

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, A WIND DESCENDED UPON THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE ...

ONE HUNDRED BILLION IN ALL ...!

FROM THESE COMPANIES, HE PULLED

WITH THE AMENDMENT BILL BUBBLE ...!

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME CHANCE ...

ざわ..

.....

ざわ..

.....

IT WAS AN EXTREMELY APPETIZING THOUGHT

LIKE BUYING A LOTTERY TICKET THAT ABSOLUTELY CANNOT LOSE

KU KU KU ...

SINCE STOCKS ARE A CREDIT TRANS-ACTION

IT'S POSSIBLE TO PERFORM TRANSACT ONS UP TO THREE TIMES THE NORMAL AMOUNT

KU KU KU ...

IF A POLITICIAN TRIED THAT EVEN FOR AN INSTANT ...

.....

I DON'T BELIEVE IT ...

THAT'S RIDI-CULOUS ...

NO ONE CAN FIND A FAULT IN HIM

IT IS A SECRET, BACKROOM SLUSH FUND

OF COURSE, HE'S JUST A CLIENT TO BUSINESS CONTACTS TAKING THE FORM OF FOREIGN COMPANIES

THAT GUY HAS PULLED ABOUT 30 BILLION FROM THE MARKET

PROBABLY, WITH THE CURRENT CONFUSION

THIS MONEY IS ...?

THEN

.....

I WAS LATE IN NOTICING IT. INITIALLY, I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH ON IN TIME FOR THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS' REJECTION AND THE FOLLOWING SLUMP

IT IS ...

FU FU ...

COMPARED TO THE AMOUNT IZAWA MANAGED TO GET, IT'S A QUAINT LITTLE SUM

WELL... MY ACTUAL PROFIT ENDED UP AT AROUND 2-3 BILLION ...

I PICKED UP A LOT OF STOCKS WHILE THE PRICES WERE LOW FROM THE CRASH

BUT I MADE IT IN TIME FOR THE SURGE CAUSED BY THE AGREEMENT AT THE TOP

I WAS ABLE TO SELL THEM AT A HIGH PRICE

BUT ...

YOU OBTAINED THIS SUM BY YOUR INTUITION AND BY READING THE MARKET

GIN-SAN, YOU'RE OKAY

.....

SUCH A THING IS UN-FORGIVABLE

IS A BETRAYAL TO THE VERY FOUNDATION OF A FREE MARKET ECONOMY

IZAWA'S BEHAVIOR

IZAWA IS UN-FORGIVABLE

EH ...?

IT COULDN'T BE HELPED

IT JUST
HELPED

I HAD
ENOUGH
OF MY
LIFE
NEEDED TO
MAINTAIN
THE
ILLUSION

FU
FU

RAWA

BEHIND THE SCENES, ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE JUSTICE PARTY HAVE AN OVERWHELMING MONEY-RAISING FORCE IN THE FORM OF A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY AFTER THAT

THE KIND OF POWER WE HAVE

WE'RE UNIQUE

WHEN FORMING A COALITION, YOU'LL LIKELY HAVE SOME WHO ARE [illegible]

I HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO COLLECT ALL OF THAT

AND SOME WHO ARE TOTALLY INDIFFERENT

I'M MORE PRACTICAL

I'M NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF LOUDLY PERSUADING PEOPLE

DOMON

"WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO FOR ME ?"

YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY BE ASKING TO USE ME FOR FREE ?

ALTHOUGH THEY DO A LOT OF TALKING

IN THE END, ALL THEY SAY TO ME IS

POLITICIANS ARE INTENSELY GREEDY HUMAN BEINGS

NOT TO MENTION

THEY CANNOT BE PERSUADED WITH JUST BOASTFUL WORDS

WHAT IS IT...? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO OFFER ME...?

IS IT VOTES? MONEY? A NEW POSITION ...?

FU FU ...

IN ORDER TO PROTECT THIS ADMINI-STRATION ...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE, IT S NOT ENOUGH

THAT MEANS, NOW

TO SILENCE THOSE GREEDY PEOPLE

I'LL MAINTAIN THAT FIGURE

WELCOME TO YOUR
HIGH SCHOOL POLITICAL
SCIENCE CLASS...

FROM HELL

(DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET TO THE "GOOD STUFF" SOON)

TRANSLATION/TYPESETTING: TEABUN

CLEANING: SNOOP

第63話

悪魔の錬金術

THE DEVIL'S ALCHEMY

EVERYONE EVERYWHERE IS SO LUKEWARM ...

GIN-SAN ...

IT'S IRRI-TATING ...

I THINK IT WILL SHOW MOST DIRECTLY IN THE NEXT ELECTION

AND THERE ARE MANY VOICES THAT SAY THEY NO LONGER WANT TO ENTRUST THE ADMINISTRATION TO US.. BUT ..

CERTAINLY, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS LASTED MANY YEARS AGAINST GROWING DISDAIN, AT LEAST IN THE POLLS

IT'S NO WONDER THAT THEY'D THINK SO

"WE SHOULD HAVE LEFT IT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY BACK THEN"

"PUT AN END TO IT ALREADY"

"THAT MESS OF A RULING COALITION IS SABOTAGING THE ECONOMY"

THE PUBLIC HAS BEGUN TO SHOW THEIR DISDAIN

EVEN WITH THE CURRENT COALITION GOVERNMENT,

WE'D BE CUT TO THE BONE

WITH THE SORROW OF LETTING GO OF POWER

IT WOULD BECOME DESPERATE

THE NEXT ELECTION WOULD'VE BEEN FRANTIC

IF "WINNING THE ELECTION" WAS THEIR TARGET

UP UNTIL THIS CURRENT MESS

THEY WOULD BREATHE OUT AND KEEP CALM

WHEN IT COMES TO A PINCH ELECTION

THE SOLIDARITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS A GREAT THING

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL BE FORMIDABLE

CERTAINLY, IN THE NEXT ELECTION

FU FU ...

WITHOUT MONEY, WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO KEEP AHOLD OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE

IF THE MONEY HADN'T STARTED FLOWING AFTER ALL

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HUMILIATING

.....

VARIOUS THINGS WILL BE SET IN MOTION

IF YOU DO THAT

IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR CURRENT POWER OF 200 SEATS OR SO

BUT ...

COULD THEY MEAN THE LEADER OF THE POST-DIVIDE TAKEMOTO FACTION, THE CIVILIAN PARTY'S LARGEST FACTION?

A THREE IN REFERENCE TO HIROYUKI MITSUZUKA*...?

THOSE THREE FINGERS

THERE WAS AN INCOMING CALL

JANUARY 21ST, THE NIGHT OF THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS' REJECTION - WHEN WE WERE MEETING WITH YOU

FU FU ...

*THE KANJI FOR MITSUZUKA INCLUDES THE KANJI FOR THE NUMBER 3

IN OTHER WORDS ...

W.....

IT COULD BE THE INITIAL OF THE MAN WHO MOST WANTS TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

OR ...

.....

MITSUO WATANABE ...?

THE FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

I WONDER ...?

FU FU ...

YOU CAN FEEL THE DEEP-SEATED UNITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

LATELY

THAT IT WAS SO EASILY ACHIEVED

IT WAS JUST A FORTUNATE SITUATION

SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO GAIN HIS COOPERATION WITH MY RULING COALITION

I THINK, ANYWAY

WELL, VARIOUS THINGS OCCURRED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

HOW SHOULD YOU ENTICE THEM ...?

IN THAT CASE ...

HERE, YOU SHOULD ALSO USE DESPERATION

FU FU ...

COMPARED TO THEIR TENACITY, I'M TOTALLY LUKEWARM

ABOUT THE SOLIDIFICATION OF THE ENMITY AGAINST ME

WHAT I SAID EARLIER

THEIR INTENT ON IS TO TRY TO MAKE TH S HATRED EXPLODE IN THE COM NG GENERAL ELECTION

YOU CAN MAKE ANY HUMAN DECENTLY DESPERATE

IF YOU CREATE A TIGHT SYSTEM

BECAUSE DESPERATION IS JUST HUMAN NATURE

YEAH ...

ENTICE ...?

SELL THEM DISTRICTS

TO THOSE WHO WANT THEM

...

DIET MEMBERS WANT TO FILL THESE SEATS ...

IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WITH THE SMALL CONSTITUENCY, THERE ARE 300 SEATS

THERE'S A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF THEM

THE END RESULT IS A NO-QUESTIONS-ASKED MONEYGRAB

SAY THAT YOU SOLD A DISTRICT FOR 500 MILLION

CONVERSELY, YOU COULD ARRANGE TO RETURN THEM DOUBLE THAT, 1 BILLION

IT IS PURELY A PREMIUM TO ACQUIRE A DISTRICT

OF COURSE, THIS IS OUTSIDE OF RAISING CAMPAIGN FUNDS

A COVER CHARGE, SO TO SPEAK

YEAH ...

SELL THEM DISTRICTS ...?

FOR THOSE WHO SAY 500 MILLION IS TOO MUCH

YOUR HANDS WILL BE FULL WITH CAMPAIGN FUNDS FROM THESE PEOPLE

IT'S GOOD TO PREPARE SOME STAFF FOR THE ELECTION

WHEN IT COMES TO ONE OR THE OTHER

OR RATHER, BY GETTING 1 BILLION BACK, GAIN 500 MILLION

PEOPLE BECOME DESPERATE

TO LOSE 500 MILLION

PEOPLE ARE MAINLY INTERESTED IN THEM-SELVES

PEOPLE WHO ARE HELPING IN GOOD FAITH, WITHOUT PAY

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS

OR PEOPLE WHO ARE PLAYING A GAME WHERE THEY GET 1 BILLION EACH

IF YOU CAN DRAG IN SOME STAFF FOR THE ELECTION, THE DISTRICTS WILL BE STRONGER

IDEALLY, YOU'D PREFER IT TO BE IN THIS SHAPE

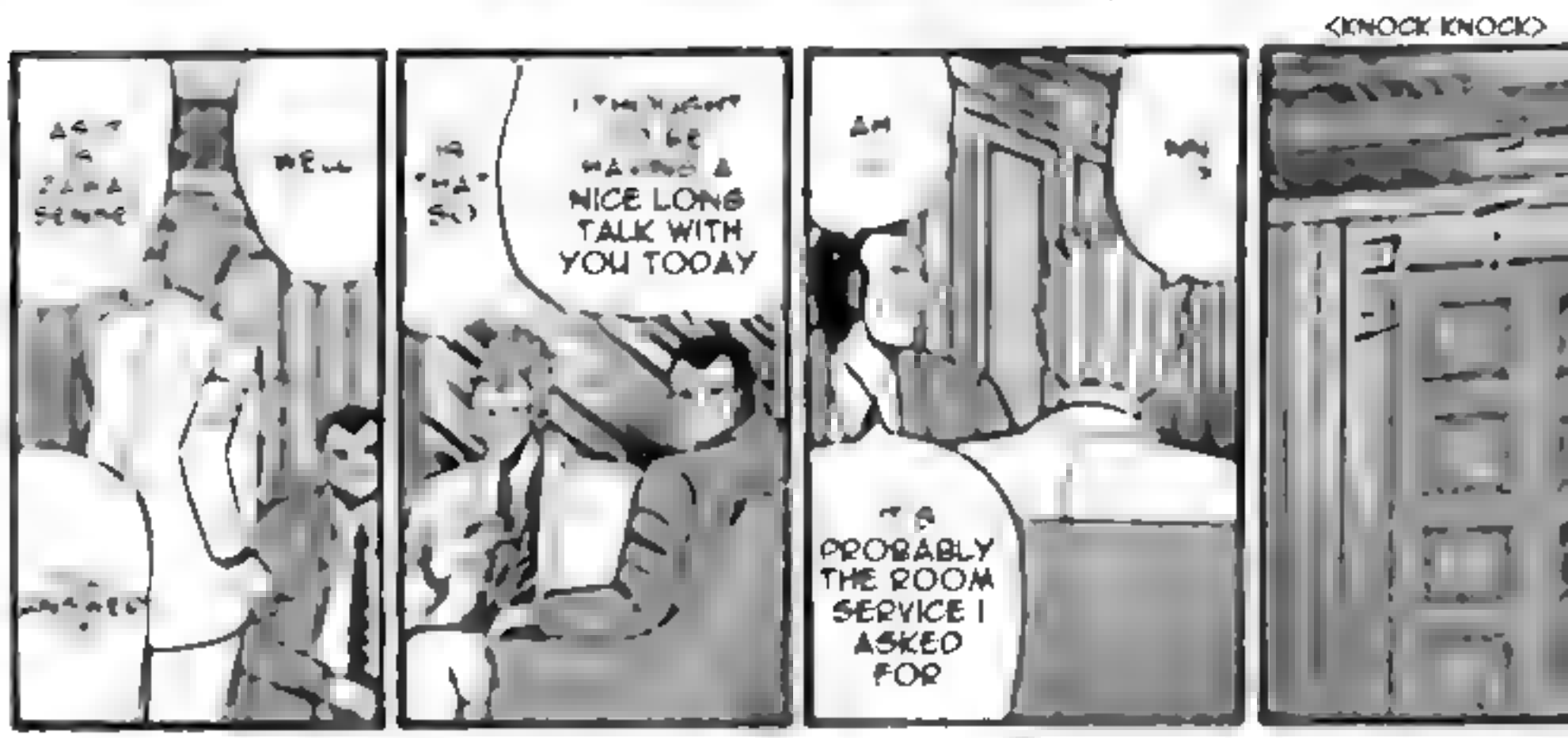
ごあ・・・

・・・・・・

WHICH DO YOU THINK IS MORE SERIOUS ABOUT THE ELECTION ...?

KU KU KU ...

THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO SAY


NICE LONG TALK WITH YOU TODAY
PROBABLY THE ROOM SERVICE I ASKED FOR
<KNOCK KNOCK>

MM ...

YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT AS WELL, PRESIDENT

ハハハ...

PLEASE DO

I'M GOING TO TURN ON THE LIGHTS

IS THAT SO ...

ALTHOUGH I'M RELUCTANT TO GO ...

BUT I ACTUALLY HAVE SOME MINOR BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO

I WOULD LIKE TO .....

ハハハ...

WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER

IT WAS PRETTY INTERESTING

FU FU ...

.....

IT'S NOT BAD, GIN-SAN ...

RATHER THAN LOSE, IF THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE UP 500 MILLION

YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE THAN THAT

IF YOU THINK THAT EVEN 50 OR SO DESPERATE DISTRICTS WOULD PRESENT THEMSELVES

AMONG THE 300 DISTRICTS

AND IF BY CHANCE ...

WITH NO RESERVE POWER LEFT, YOU'LL BE SUCKED TO THE VERY BONES

.....

YOUR POLITICAL LIFE IS ESSENTIALLY OVER

AT ANY RATE, IF YOU DON'T SURVIVE THE NEXT ELECTION FOR THE SMALL CONSTITUENCY

IS THAT YOU CAN COLLECT THE MONEY FROM YOUR OWN TEAM

THE MOST EXQUISITE PART OF THIS PLAN

EH ...?

SOMEHOW IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU DON'T WANT VERY MANY CHANCES

FU FU ...

YOU'LL BE SO VERY THANKFUL

IF BY SOME MIRACLE, YOU MAKE IT THROUGH

THAT ASIDE

GIN-SAN ...

WELL ...

FU FU ...

EVEN WITH THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO CUT TIES ..

WELL, THERE'S ALSO PEOPLE WHO HONESTLY DON'T WANT TO COME BACK

EVEN SO, T'S A SUFFICIENT NUMBER

I'D LIKE TO HEAR A LITTLE SOMETHING FROM YOU TODAY, GIN-SAN

EH ...?

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO AT THAT TIME ...?

SUPPOSING MY ADMINISTRATION BECOMES ROCK-SOLID

FU FU ...

YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS ...?

RIGHT NOW, WHILE YOU'VE BEEN SUPPORTING ME

WOULD YOU ENTRUST THIS TO ME ...?

GOVERNANCE OF THE BUSINESS WORLD ..

TH-AT'S RIGHT

WELL, IN THE EVENT THAT YOU RULE THE POLITICAL WORLD

I WANT TO RULE ALL OF THESE

THE KIND OF LARGE COMPANIES I MEAN

IN OTHER WORDS, TH S COUNTRY'S LARGEST COMPANIES

WOULD BE ONES LIKE TOYOTA OR SONY

THAT'S CORRECT

GOVERNANCE OF THE BUS NESS WORLD ..?

UNDER MY CONTROL ...!

ALL COMPANIES ...

KIRIN BEER

キリンビール

YAMAHA

TOSHIB

Drink Coca-Cola

NEC

SANYO

SEIBU

MY DESIRE ...

THAT IS MY ULTIMATE GOAL

ごお

.....

FU FU ...

THIS IS A SCHEME THAT REQUIRES TREMENDOUS WITCHCRAFT ...

HOW COULD SUCH A THING EVEN HAPPEN ...?

I CAN'T IMAGINE IT

THIS IS YOUR SCHEME ...?

GIN-SAN ...

.....

I JUST HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET

AS FOR THE DETAILS

I'M NOT MERELY TALKING ABOUT SOME ROUGH SKELETON

EVEN IF IT'S MY PLAN

IT MUST SOUND LIKE NONSENSE

BE-SIDES

HEARING TH S

IT MUST SOUND STUPID

FU FU ...

IT'S IN-TRIGUING

GO AHEAD AND SPEAK

I DON'T MIND ...

ALTHOUGH THAT'S ALL I'VE TOLD YOU SO FAR ..

HERE, A HELPFUL LIMIT WAS ADDED

IS ARTICLE 10, PARAGRAPH ONE OF THE BANKING ACT, BUS NESS SPECIFIC BANKING -

THE SEED OF THIS MAGIC

IT IS VERY SIMPLE

THEN I'LL TALK

ALL OF IT WAS LEFT UP TO THE DISCRETION OF INDIVIDUAL BANKS

UP UNTIL NOW THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT COULD BE USED TO FINANCE A COMPANY

IN ESSENCE IT IS JUST MONEY LENDING

WHEN IT COMES TO BUSINESS SPECIFIC BANKING

YES

A BUSINESS SPECIFIC LIMIT ...?

AND LED TO THIS CURRENT PROLONGED RECESSION

BUT THIS GAVE BIRTH TO THE BUBBLE ECONOMY

I WANT THIS TO PASS THROUGH

THAT'S WHAT IT IS

THE PURPOSE OF THAT LEGAL AMENDMENT

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE PUT CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON IT

IN ORDER TO NOT MAKE SUCH A MISTAKE AGAIN

ESTABLISHING A LEGAL LENDING LIMIT

IT SEEMS A LOT MORE REALISTIC NOW, HUH

IT'S POSSIBLE

THAT IS, IF THE LENDING LIMIT PASSES

FU FU ...

SO THAT YOU CAN STAND AT THE TOP OF ALL COMPANIES ...?

LIKE YOU SAID A LITTLE WHILE AGO

IS THAT SINGLE LAW ENOUGH ...?

PHEW ...

60

THERE'S A LEGAL LIMIT AGAINST IT ...

IN THAT CASE

THEN... GIN-SAN, WHAT WILL YOU DO ...?

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO FREELY GET ANOTHER LOAN FROM WHATEVER BANK YOU LIKE

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE IS THERE TO DECIDE THE LIMIT

THE BILL PASSES, RIGHT?

WELL, THAT'S ASSUMING ...

YES
...

THAT IS
THE
ISSUE

YES
...

WORK
...?

FIRST OF
ALL, THE
AMOUNT OF
TROUBLESOME
WORK WILL
INCREASE

IF THIS
HAPPENS

IZAWA-
SAN
...

FROM
THERE,
IT'S MY
TURN

THUS

NATURALLY,
THERE ARE
NO SUCH
HUMAN
RESOURCES
OR TIME AT THE
MINISTRY OF
FINANCE

YOU CAN
IMAG NE THIS
WILL BE
HUGELY
LABOR
INTENSIVE
WORK
..

.....Oo

THINK
ABOUT
TH S A
LITTLE

CHECKING
WHETHER OR
NOT THE
LOANS THAT
BANKS GIVE TO
CORPORATIONS
ARE
REASONABLE

THE ROLE OF A HATED PERSON IS A SUITABLE ONE FOR ME

I WILL SINGLE-HANDEDLY UNDERTAKE THIS BUSINESS

YES ...

THEN ...

THEY WILL ENTRUST TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

THESE ACTI-VITIES

どわ…

……

どわ…

……

AN ANALYSIS FIRM THAT PERFORMS TH S CHECK

FOR ALL COMPANIES, FROM THE STATE OF THEIR MANAGEMENT TO THEIR RESOURCES SITUATION

300
250
200
150
100
50
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

OUR EVALUATION — OUR JUDGMENT

BUT OUR COMPANY IS DIFFERENT

THERE ARE NO FIRMS LIKE THAT IN JAPAN CURRENTLY

KU KU KU …

…I SEE…

BECAUSE IT CAN INFLUENCE THE LOANS THEY RECEIVE FROM BANKS

YOU COULD SAY IT IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF A COMPANY

REGRETTABLY, IT HAS NO LEGALLY BIND NG FORCE

OVER ALL COMPANIES ooo

I CAN EXERCISE OVERWHELMING POWER ooo!

acom

アコム

FUJITSU

富士通

日興證券

I WON'T DO THINGS LIKE THREATEN OR BLACKMAIL THEM

I DON'T LIKE DOING THINGS ROUGHLY

NAT-URALLY

KU KU KU ...

.....

A C RANK COMPANY WANTS TO BECOME B RANK, AND A B RANK COMPANY WANTS TO BECOME A RANK

BECAUSE OUR RANKING IS DIRECTLY TIED TO HOW MUCH MONEY THEY CAN LOAN FROM BANKS, OF COURSE

I'LL DRAW MANY COMPANIES CLOSE

EVEN WITHOUT THOSE KIND OF THINGS

I SEE ...

IT'S A REASON-ABLE IDEA

.....

EVEN IF IT'S HANDS-OFF, YOU'LL GATHER MONEY

AND RATHER THAN BEING NATIONALLY MANAGED, IT'S MANAGED BY A SINGLE PRIVATE COMPANY

RATHER THAN MANAGING BANKS, IT'S MANAGING COMPANIES

IT CHANGED IMPER-CEPTIBLY

ALTHOUGH THE LAW WAS SUPPOSED TO MANAGE THE EXCESSIVE LOANS OF BANKS

WITHOUT QUESTION, IT'S BANKS

BECAUSE BANKS ARE THE HEART OF SOCIETY

THERE IS NO DOUBT

ARE BANKS ...

THE SEEDS OF THIS WITCHCRAFT

FU FU ...

THAT'S NOTHING BUT WITCH-CRAFT

THAT IS THE KEY TO A LIMITLESS MONEY-MAKING SYSTEM ...

THEREFORE, YOU TAKE HOLD OF THE BANKS FIRST ...

■七金◆第◎書◆元

TRANSLATION/TYPESETTING: TEABUN
CLEANING: SNOOP

第84話

野望帝国

EMPIRE OF AMBITION

IF SUCCESSFUL, IT'S LIKELY TO RESULT IN AN INEXHAUSTIBLE AMOUNT OF MONEY

IT'S CERTA NLY AN INTERESTING PLAN

FU FU ...

AN ANALYST FIRM THAT MANAGES ENTERPRISES ...

IT'S STILL VERY DIFFICULT ...

BUT ...

THAT'S A PRE-REQUISITE

I DON'T NEED TO SAY WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE BILL DOESN'T PASS

"THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WILL LIMIT THE BUSINESS LOAN AMOUNTS IN THE BANK LAW"

YOUR PLAN IS

BUT ...

RIGHT ...?

AND YOU CAN EXERT A RESTRAINING FORCE ON THESE COMPANIES

THEN YOUR COMPANY CAN BECOME THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE'S SUB-CONTRACTORS, SO TO SPEAK

ONLY AFTER THAT HAPPENS

FU FU ...

THERE'S NO WAY THE BANK SIDE WOULD EVER AGREE

IT REALLY WOULD BE DIFFICULT

THINK ABOUT IT THOROUGHLY

THIS BANK LOAN RESTRICTION LAW

IT'S NEARLY IM-POSSIBLE

I THINK PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO OPEN THEIR EYES

THINGS ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE DRAMATIC-ALLY

BUT ...

I'D NEVER SEE SUCH A FOOLISH DREAM COME TO PASS

CERTAINLY, IN A NORMAL SITUATION, IT WOULD BE 100% IMPOSSIBLE

YES ...

EYES ...?

FU FU ...

THE WORST IN THE POSTWAR ERA

RIGHT NOW, THESE BANKS ARE IN THE MIDST OF AN ABSOLUTELY UNPRECEDENTED FINANCIAL CRISIS

AS YOU KNOW

.....

THAT IS SAID TO BE THE AMOUNT OF UNREPAYABLE LOANS

APPROXI-MATELY 60 TRILLION

BUT THAT'S JUST THE NUMBER THEY GAVE TO THE PUBLIC

LAST YEAR, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE BAD LOANS GIVEN OUT BY BANKS WAS AROUND 13 TRILLION

IN FACT, IT'S 4 TO 5 TIMES MORE

IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL BE CATASTROPHIC

BANKRUPTCY

AFTER 7 YEARS, IT WILL MULTIPLY INTO FIGURES AROUND 120 TRILLION

UP UNTIL TH S PO NT, NO EFFECTIVE PLAN OF ACTION HAS BEEN MADE FOR THESE BAD LOANS. PEOPLE ARE JUST STANDING BY AND WATCHING

THE STATE BUDGET IS COMPARABLE TO THESE UNREPAYABLE LOANS

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY BECAME AWARE OF THE LOSSES

INVOLVED IN THE RECOVERY OF THE BAD DEBTS

AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, BANKS ARE STARTING TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT IT

BECAUSE TH S IS CLEARLY VIS BLE,

.....

TWO ARE TRUST BANKS

ONE IS A LONG-TERM CREDIT BANK

THEY WILL FACE BANKRUPTCY SOON

FOR THESE BANKS, HOW WILL THEY GLOSS THIS OVER?

THEIR BAD LOANS EXCEED THE VALUE OF THE ASSETS THEY HAVE ON HAND

HOWEVER, FOR SOME OF THE BANKS,

YET ANOTHER IS A CITY BANK

銀行

IN OTHER WORDS, TOTAL COLLAPSE

IN THIS STATE OF INSOLVENCY, THEIR HANDS ARE TIED

IT'S ESSENTIALLY COUNTLESS

AS FOR REGIONAL BANKS

WITH THEIR POWER, THEY WOULD DO THINGS LIKE MERGE BANKS TOGETHER

VAR OUS TH NGS LIKE THAT

UP UNTIL NOW, THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WOULD ALWAYS OFFER SOME TIMELY ASSISTANCE

IN THESE CASES

.....

I WOULD RECOMMEND KEEPING THEIR HANDS ENTIRELY OUT OF IT

IN THIS CASE

THEY ONLY HAVE THE MEANS TO HELP AROUND 11 DIFFERENT BANKS

THE POISON OF THESE BAD LOANS S NOT JUST AFFECTING ONE OR TWO OF THEM

BUT NOW, TH S IS IMPOSSIBLE

EH ..?

WE REALLY SHOULD LET ONE OR TWO BANKS COLLAPSE

LET THEM DIE

THAT BEING SA D, TH NGS LIKE THE JAPAN POST BANK ARE LIMITED TO PUBLIC FUNDS

IT'S SPREADING TO ALL BANKS

YOUR COMMON, LAW-ABIDING DEPOSITOR WILL NOT WAKE UP

PEOPLE WILL PANIC

BUT UNLESS THERE'S A COMMOTION INVOLVING ONE OR TWO BANK RUNS*

OF COURSE

BUT THAT'S ...

*A BANK RUN IS WHERE A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE TRY TO WITHDRAW THEIR DEPOSITS ALL AT ONCE

IT WAS A CR ME THAT DESERVED CERTA N DEATH

WERE THOSE BANKS

THAT THE ONES WHO WERE GIVING OUT THOSE LOANS LEFT AND RIGHT AT THE TIME OF THE BUBBLE

THIS WILL GET THEM TO REMEMBER

SHOULD PASS EASILY

THE BILL BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE INTENDED TO LIMIT THE LOAN-GIVING POWER OF BANKS

PUBLIC OPINION WILL BECOME OUR ALLY

ONCE THE MASSES FULLY RECOGNIZE TH S

.....

THEY MIGHT NEED TO CHANGE THE NAME TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT

KU KU KU ...

"THE BANKING CRIS S AVOIDANCE LAW"

"THE LOAN LIMITATION LAW" MIGHT BE WORDED A BIT TOO BLUNTLY

AL- THOUGH

FU FU ...

REALLY ...

YOU'RE AMA-ZING

AND MAKE IT SEEM PLAUS BLE

YOU TAKE THE SEEM NGLY IMPOSSIBLE

I FEEL LIKE YOU COULD MAKE ME BELIEVE ANYTHING

WHEN I'M TALK NG TO YOU

IT'S A STRANGE FEELING

I'LL CERTA NLY BUILD IT

.....

I HAVE A FEELING YOU REALLY WILL BE ABLE TO BUILD YOUR KINGDOM ...

I SEE ...

.....

I'M DETERM NED TO ACCOMPLISH TH S

NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS T TAKES ...

EVEN IF THE S TLATION I JUST TALKED ABOUT TURNS OUT TO BE IMPOSSIBLE ..

I'LL FIND A DIFFERENT ROUTE

FROM THE START, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT COULD HAPPEN IN TH S WORLD

WE'RE BOTH OLD MEN-- NEITHER OF US COULD BE CALLED YOUNG

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU DIE ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?

BUT

ONCE THAT HAPPENS

BUT, WELL ...

INDEED, I WOULD BE OUT OF LUCK IN THE FACE OF THAT

.....

FU FU ...

IT'S POSSIBLE YOU COULD FEEL THE BITE OF DEATH AS SOON AS TOMORROW ..

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO WILL SUCCEED MY WISHES

THERE'S CERTA NLY NO COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD

HE WILL FOLLOW THAT PATH IN MY STEAD

TETSUO MORITA ...

ポ

NN ...?

I'M JEALOUS

FU FU ...

.....

IT MUST MAKE YOU VERY HAPPY, GIN-SAN

TO PASS YOUR DREAM ONTO A YOUNG PERSON

.....

PHEW --

FU FU ...

THEY'RE NOT WORTHY VESSELS TO PASS MY DREAM ONTO

ONLY PEOPLE WITH ROUGH NATURES

THERE ARE NO YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE THAT AROUND ME

FU FU ...

DIDN'T YOU INVITE HIM, GIN-SAN ...?

HE'S OUT DOING A JOB TODAY

WHERE IS MORITA-KUN TODAY ...?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT ...

I CAN'T TELL YOU THE DETAILS ...

YES ...

A JOB ...?

THEIR FIRST CON-TACT

TODAY HE'S SEEING SOMEONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO PARTNER WITH HIM IN HIS WORK

HIS JOB IS TO "RESCUE THE OLD MAN BEING HELD IN CAPTIVITY"

BUT THE WORK MORITA IS DOING NOW IS A LITTLE DANGEROUS

YEAH ...

WE'RE WORKING SEPARATELY NOW ...

EH ...?

THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING WITH HIM

IS IT REALLY OKAY?

HM ...

THEIR VERY FIRST MEETING

EVERYONE THINKS WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE THIS COMPLETELY UP TO MORITA

ANY MORE RUNNING ESCAPES

OR SITUATIONS WHERE I MIGHT HAVE TO FIGHT, I'D BE NO GOOD AT

I'M ALREADY AT A PRETTY GOOD AGE

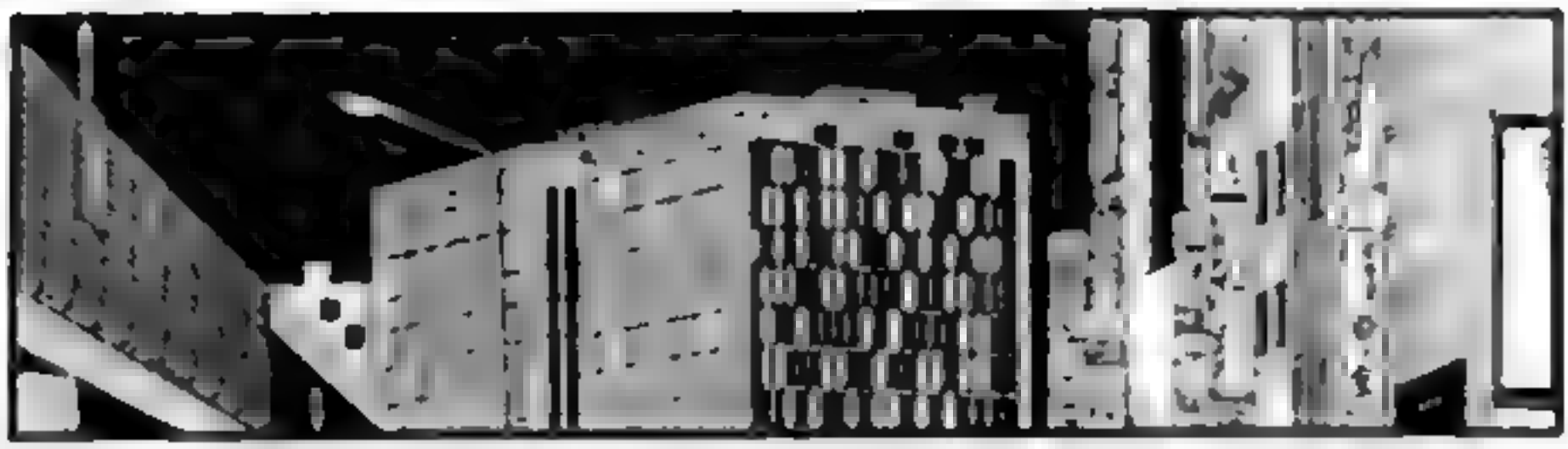
I'M LEAVING THIS MATTER ENTIRELY TO MORITA

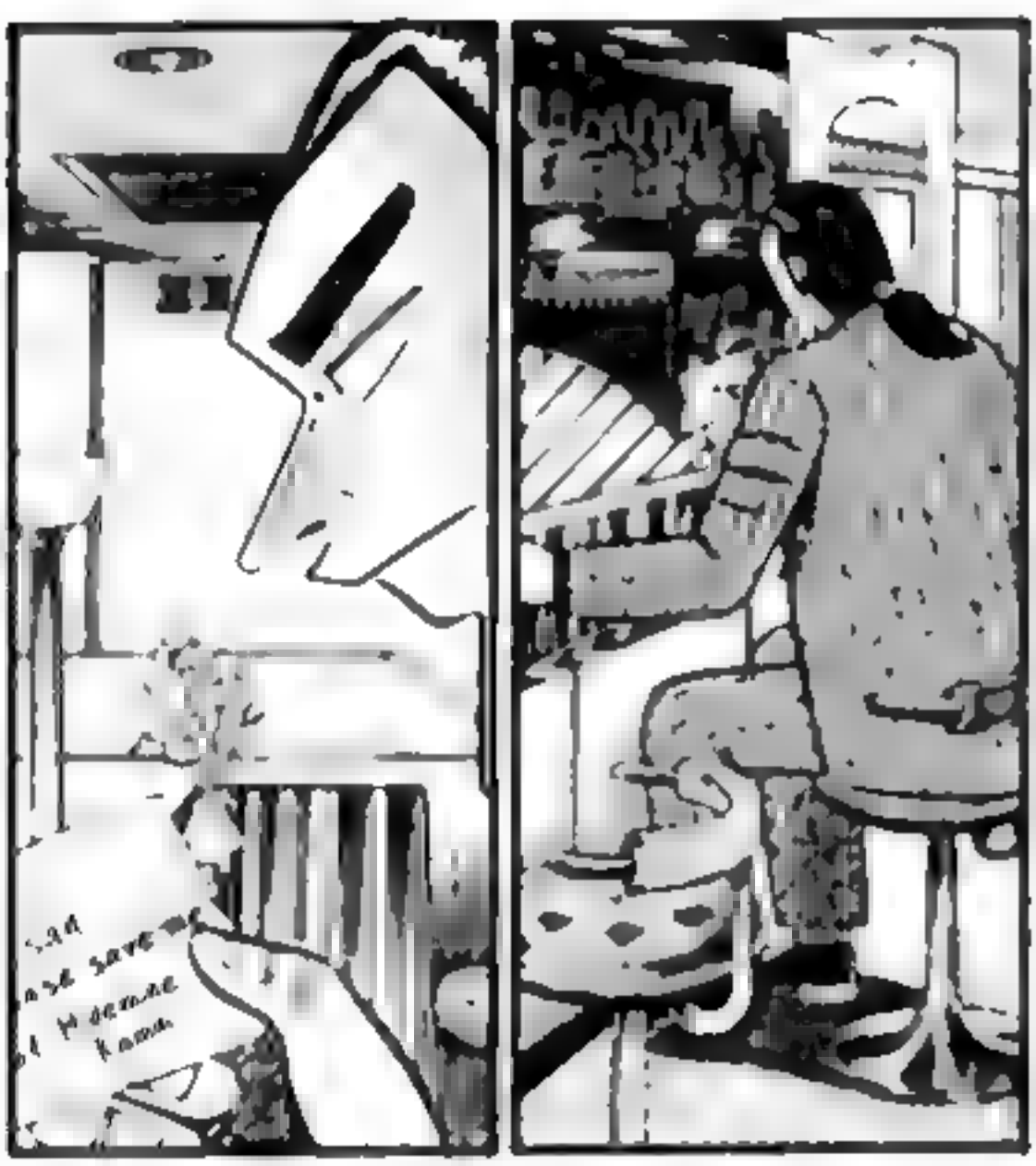
I'M GOING TO BE HANDS-OFF

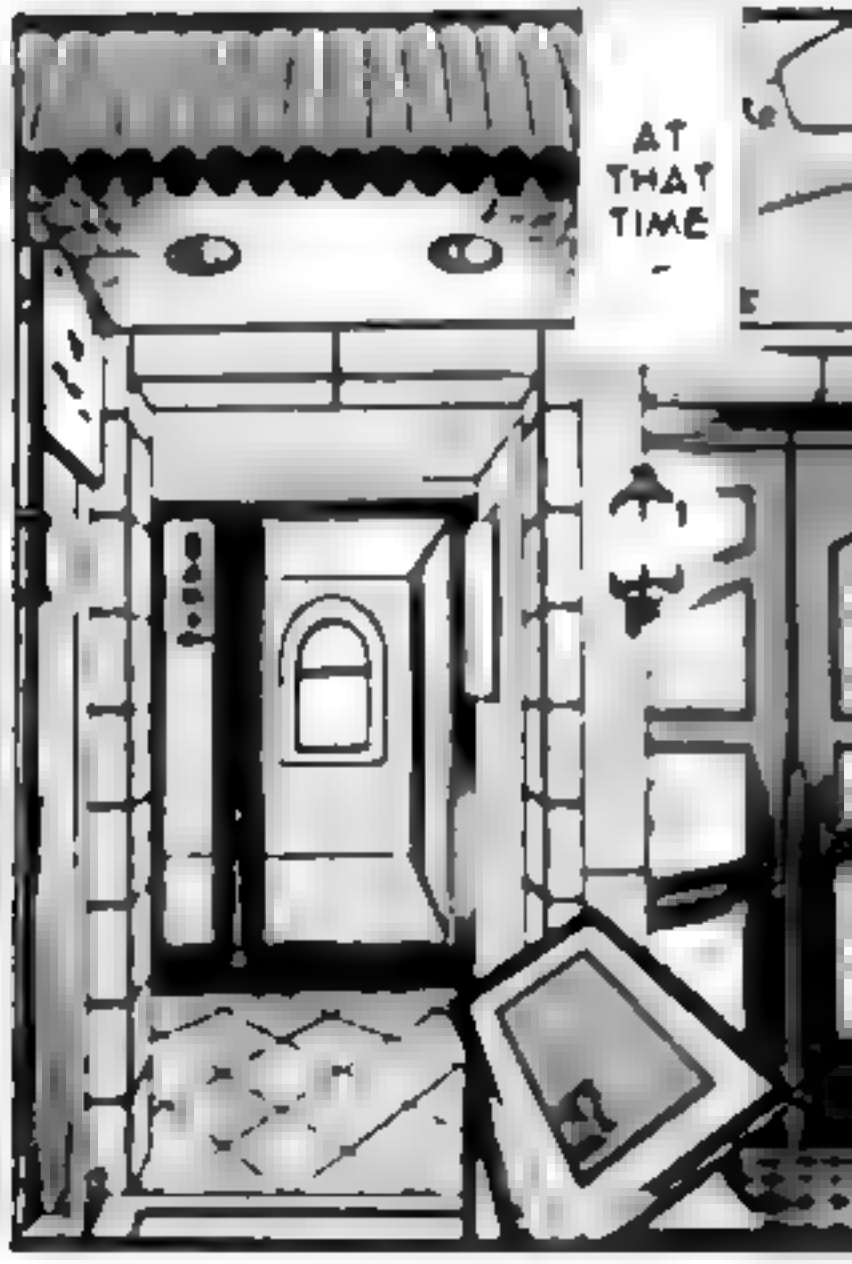
.....

BY NOW, OUR BODIES JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT

FU FU ...






AT
THAT
TIME

SOS
Gin-san
Please save me
561. Hidemine
Kamui

MORITA

YOUR JOB HERE IS SIMPLE

ACT AS HIS BODYGUARD FOR A FEW DAYS

RESCUE AND PROTECT HIM

THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

SOS

Please save me

Hidemine Kamui

THAT ELDERLY MAN, KAMUI IS BEING CONFINED IN A HOSPITAL

Please save me

561. Hidemine Kamui

HERE'S THE SITUATION

YOU'LL LEARN THE DETAILS WHEN YOU MEET W TH YOUR PARTNER TODAY YOU TWO CAN DECIDE WHAT TO DO FROM THERE

A FEW DAYS EARLIER

YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIDEMINE KAMUI ...?

WHO'S THAT ...?

HIDEMINE KAMUI ...?

SOS
Gin-san
Please save me
561. Hidemine
Kamui

MORITA, YOU GO

ANYWAY .. SINCE HE'S ASKING FOR HELP

ONE OF THE TOP THREE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURERS IN JAPAN

HE'S THE CHAIRMAN OF "KAMUI"

HAA ...

カチャ

HOW LONG HAS THIS KAMUI PERSON BEEN HELD ...?

BUT ISN'T THIS PRETTY SUSPICIOUS ...?

I DON'T REALLY MIND ...

.....

WELL ...

GIN-SAN, THAT'S TOO WEIRD!

WHAT ...!?

3 OR 4 ...?

HAH ...?

ABOUT 3 OR 4 MONTHS, MAYBE

KU KU KU ...

BEFORE EVER SENDING OUT A NOTE LIKE THAT...!

HE NATURALLY WOULD'VE ALREADY ASKED ONE OF HIS RELATIVES TO SAVE HIM

SINCE IT'S BEEN 3 OR 4 MONTHS

FU FU ...

THERE'S NO WAY HIS ENTIRE FAMILY WOULD IMPRISON HIM, RIGHT?

THE REASON THAT OLD MAN IS IMPR SONED

BE-CAUSE

HE CAN'T ASK HIS RELATIVES FOR HELP

MORITA ...

IS BECAUSE OF THEM ...!

ざわ
ざわ

HAH ...?

THEY GOT A DOCTOR INVOLVED

AND FORCED THE ELDERLY KAMUI INTO THE HOSPITAL

病院

THOSE 4 PEOPLE ARE UNIFIED

ALTHOUGH KAMUI HAS 4 SONS

IT'S HIS SONS

BECAUSE OF H S FAMILY .?

THE OLD MAN IS NATURALLY CUT OFF FROM TELEPHONES AND ANY OTHER CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD

206

HE IS TRAPPED INSIDE THAT HOSPITAL ROOM

.....

AS LONG AS THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AND THE SONS ALIGN THEIR STORIES LIKE THAT

OF COURSE, OFFICIALLY THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE DUE TO A SEVERE ILLNESS

NOTHING SEEMS SUSPICIOUS

AND GAINED AN ALLY

HE SET HIS SIGHTS ON ONE PARTICULAR NURSE

IN SUCH A HOPELESS SITUATION

HE'S NOTHING BUT A CAGED BIRD

HE PER-SUADED HER ..

IT'S A SITUATION WHERE THEY COULD EVEN EUTHANIZE HIM, IF THEY FELT LIKE IT

THIS NUMBER HERE, "561"

A MESSAGE THAT HANGS A LIFE IN THE BALANCE

IT REALLY IS AN SOS

Gin-san Please save me 561 Hidemine Kamui

TO PASS ALONG MY PHONE NUMBER AND THIS NOTE

AND SO HE WAS ABLE

.....

THIS IS A NUMBER THAT HAS MEANING BETWEEN ME AND THE OLD MAN, LIKE A CIPHER

Please save me 561. Hidemine Kamui

THERE IS NO DOUBT

THIS NOTE IS FROM HIM

UMM
...

BY HIS OWN CHILD-REN ...

ANOTHER MESS INVOLVING MONEY ...

WHAT A SICKENING STORY ..

.....

EH ...?

ARE YOU MORITA-SAN ...?

HUH ...?

NICE TO MEET YOU ...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU FROM HERE ON OUT

MY NAME IS SAORI TANAKA

EH ...?

"I'M COUNTING ON YOU" ...

.....

YES ...!

YOU'RE MY PARTNER ...?

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU

TRANSLATION/CLEANS/TYPESETTING: TEABUN

HER NAME IS SAORI TANAKA

SHE WAS THE SOLE PERSON TO OFFER A HELPING HAND

FOR THE OLD MAN WHO WAS SURROUNDED ONLY BY ENEMIES

SHE'S THE NURSE WHO PASSED IT ON TO GIN-SAN

THE MESSAGE FROM THE OLD MAN TRAPPED IN THE HOSPITAL

. . .

THERE'S PROBABLY SOME SORT OF REWARD IN STORE FOR HER

THOUGH THAT SOUNDS TOUCHING, IT'S NOT

I'LL RESCUE THE OLD MAN IN CO-OPERATION WITH HER

I'LL BE WORKING WITH HER

第65話

華麗なる一族の骨肉の争い

THE FEUD OF THE GRAND FAMILY

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ...?

IS THAT EVEN ALLOWED?

800 METERS* ..!

EHHH HHH--

THE APPROX-IMATE CIRCUM-FERENCE IS

GIVEN THAT MY STRIDE IS ABOUT 70 CM ...

UHH ...

ONE WALK AROUND IT WAS ABOUT 1143 STEPS

PHEW ...

*ABOUT 1/2 MILE

THIS IS REALLY PISSING ME OFF.

SERIOUSLY.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US IS TOO BIG.

HOW MANY TROUBLES CAN YOU EVEN HAVE..!?

A COMMON PERSON WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO AFFORD A FRACTION OF THIS

MORITA WENT ALONE TO G PREFECTURE IN N CITY AND PAID THE HOUSE-HOLD OF THE KAMI HEAD A VISIT

THE DAY AFTER MEETING WITH HER

1143

1140 ... 41 ... 42

LIKE A BIG TREE ...!

AND THE (THE SUBSTANCE THAT CONSUMES THE CITY) IS THE (ATTACKING MECHANISM)

THEY COULD BE (ATTACKING THE CITY) OR (DEFENDING THE CITY FROM THE (ATTACKING MECHANISM))

CURRENTLY, OF THE THREE MAIN CITIES IN (PREFECTURE), N, S, AND Y (CITY)

(MAP)

(THE CASTLE TOWN OF (PREFECTURE))

THE OLDEST SON, KATSUTERU, S A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRE-SENTATIVES

THE OTHER THREE ARE PERSONS OF DISTINCT-ION

AL-THOUGH HE S TRULY A NOBODY -

THE FOURTH SON, KATSUHIRO, IS AN INFERIOR KAMUI, WHO BUMS MONEY OFF OF THEIR NAME

THESE ARE H S SONS

THESE THREE HAVE A COMPLETE POLITICAL AND ECONOM.C HOLD ON N, Y, AND S CIT ES

THE THIRD SON, KATSUYUKI, IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE MAJOR MANUFACTURER, "KAMUI"

THE SECOND ELDEST, KATSU-NOBU, IS THE GOVERNOR OF S PREFECTURE

BUT ...

THAT IS KAMUI

THOSE WITH-OUT OPPO-SITION

THEY ARE A HUGE TREE THAT CAN NEVER BE CUT DOWN

IN TH S AREA, NO ONE WOULD DARE GO AGA NST KAMUI

FROM WITH-IN ...

DECAY ...!

THE ROOTS OF THAT TREE CAN ALSO ROT

IT ALL STARTED IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR

FORTU-NATELY, HIS TEST RESULTS SHOWED NOTHING OF CONCERN

HE WAS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL

AFTER REACHING THE AGE OF 85, HIDEMINE BEGAN COMPLA NING OF STOMACH PAINS

THEY FORCED HIDEMINE TO STAY IN THE HOSPITAL

THE THREE OLDEST BROTHERS CAME TOGETHER AND BROUGHT THE DOCTOR TO THEIR SIDE

THEY SUDDENLY CANCELED THAT

ALTHOUGH HE WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL AFTER 2 OR 3 DAYS

M-PRISON-MENT

TELEPHONES, VIS TORS, AND ALL OTHER CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD WAS CUT OFF

I DON'T GET IT ...

BUT ...

YES ...

THE PA-TRIARCH'S RIGHTS ..?

IS A STRUGGLE OVER THE RIGHTS OF THE PATRIARCH ..

THIS WHOLE TH.NG

.....

WHY WOULD THEY DO SUCH A THING ...?

THE OTHERS GET NOTHING

ON THE CONTRARY, ONCE THE NEW HEAD IS CHOSEN

THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY INHERITS ALL THESE RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE ESTATE

HAS A GREAT AMOUNT OF POWER

THE HEAD OF THE KAMUI FAMILY, PERHAPS MORE SO THAN ANY OTHER FAMILY

THAT OLD MAN HASN'T DENIED IT, EITHER

"HIDEMINE IS GOING TO GIVE THEM TO SOMEONE BESIDES THOSE THREE BROTHERS," OR SO THE RUMORS SAY

THEIR FATE IS DETERMINED BY THE PATRIARCH'S RIGHTS

THE HEAD IS THE MASTER, AND ANY OF HIS BROTHERS WOULD BE LIKE HIS VASSALS - HIS SUBORDINATES

EVEN IF THEY'RE BROTHERS, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM IS ABSOLUTE

THAT'S THE LAW OF THE KAMUI FAMILY

IT'S MUCH BETTER IF SOMEONE THEY KNOW BECOMES THE FAMILY HEAD

STILL, THE THREE CAN'T TOTALLY IGNORE THE RUMOR

THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BEAR IT IF A FIFTH SON THAT THEY'D NEVER MET UNTIL NOW BECAME THE HEAD

THE THING IS, THERE MUST NOT BE ANOTHER MALE HEIR

THAT'S A FATAL POINT AGAINST THOSE WHO MIGHT TRY FOR THE INHERITANCE

APPARENTLY, THERE'S A FIFTH SON THAT NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT

SERIOUSLY ...?

THE THREE OLDER BROTHERS STILL HAVE THE BEST SHOT, THOUGH

WAS TRYING TO SEAL THEM AWAY

EVERYONE THOUGHT THAT THE CURRENT HEAD, HIDEMINE

THE LOATHSOME PATRIARCH'S RIGHTS

THOSE THREE'S ACTIONS ARE DEPARTING FROM THE NORMAL WAY A LITTLE BIT

THEY'RE IMPATIENT

I WANTED TO HELP HIM ESCAPE

STANDING BY THAT OLD MAN'S SIDE

THAT IT WON'T BE REVEALED

NOT UNTIL HE DIES

WHETHER THE RIGHTS ARE OBTAINED OR LOST, IT'S JUST NOT SOMETHING NORMAL

BECAUSE OF THE PATRI-ARCHAL RIGHTS

I CAN UNDERSTAND THOSE THREE'S FEELINGS TOO, THOUGH

I ...

TO BECOME HEAD OF THE KAMUI FAMILY IN THIS AREA MEANS

MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW

UNLESS YOU'RE A PERSON LIVING IN KAMUI TERRITORY

.....

THE KING'S THRONE ...

IN OTHER WORDS, A THRONE

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO GOVERN N CITY, Y CITY, AND S CITY

ㅁㅁㅁ...

ㅁㅁ..

SHIT ...!

IT'S DEFINITELY THE ELDEST KAMUI SON ...!

ISN'T THAT ...?

チャ
バラ…
バ
ラ
ス…

HAA ...?

.....

RICH PEOPLE, HUH ...

BUT WHAT'S WITH THIS STUPID STIFFNESS ...?

I GUESS SO ...

HAAH~ ...

IS STUFF LIKE THIS REALLY STILL DONE NOWADAYS ...?

WHAT'S THIS ...?

DOESN'T HE REALIZE IT ...?

... WHY?

WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING SO STUPID ...?

IN THEIR HEARTS, THEY'RE HURLING ALL SORTS OF ABUSE

THEY'RE JUST BEING FORCED

THE TRUTH IS, HE'S WALKING THROUGH AN AISLE OF INSULTS

THAT'S THE REASON WHY THE SERVANTS COME OUT AND GREET HIM BY BOWING THEIR HEADS

WELL, I GUESS IT'S THEIR LIVELIHOOD

THERE'S NO GENUINE RESPECT

BUT IT'S JUST FOR SHOW

OH ...?

PHEW ...

HEY ...!

AH ...

THERE'S A SERVANT WHO DIDN'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT STUPID CEREMONY

OH-

AH... I SEE

UU ...

AH ...

FOR CHRIST'S SAKE ...

I TOLD YOU KATSUTERU-SAMA WAS COMING HOME ..!

AGAIN, YOU BASTARD

YOU TRASH ...!

UU--

AH--

...

...

...

UU ...

UU ...

MAYBE THAT'LL LET THE STUPIDITY DRAIN OUT OF YOUR HEAD ...!

UU ...

AH ...

WHAT A NASTY WORLD ...

AH- ...

BECAUSE OF THE STRESS

ALWAYS GROVEL-LING

IT'S TRUE ...

THEY SAY THEY'RE UNFORGIVING TO THE PEOPLE UNDER THEM

OSELLE
COFFEE SHOP

FOR THIS JOB

MORITA IS A BIT RELUC-TANT

PHEW ...

. . . .

WAS THAT HE HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THIS JOB

BUT THE LARGEST FACTOR

IT WAS FOR THE GRIM CONFLICT IN THE KAMUI HOUSE

WHICH HE FOUND DIS-TASTEFUL

WAS THE NURSE, SAORI TANAKA

MORITA FEELS OUT OF THE LOOP

THE ONE WHO SEIZED THE INITIATIVE IN CONNECTING THE TWO KEY PEOPLE, HIDEMINE KAMUI AND GINJI

I'LL BRING THE OLD MAN THERE

YOU CAN WAIT IN THE PARKING LOT BEHIND THE HOSPITAL WITH THE ENGINE RUNNING, MORITA-KUN

YES ...

A DRIVER ...?

I HAVE A TRUMP CARD

GET IT ...?

I'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF THE OLD MAN, TOO

MY MOVE-MENTS WON'T BE SEEN AS SUS-PICIOUS

I'VE WORKED IN THAT HOSPITAL FOR TWO YEARS

LEAVE IT TO ME ...!

HUH ...?

THE DAY OF ACTION ARR-IVES

AND SO

.....

IT'S A CARD THAT CAN ONLY BE PLAYED ONCE ...

IT'S JUST FOR THIS ONE TIME

. . . . .

THIS IS THE SETUP -

SHE MAKES USE OF IT

THE GUARDS WHO WERE ON WATCH ALLOWED THE DOCTOR AND A FEW NURSES

TO PROVIDE CARE

WAS, IN OTHER WORDS, BETRAYAL

THE CARD THAT SHE SAID COULD ONLY BE USED ONCE

. . . . .

THERE IS THICK SMOKE ...!

AT 8:43, HE SETS FIRE TO HIS SHEETS

AT 8:40, THE OLD MAN IGNITES THE SMOKE BOMB

FIRST, SHE PASSES A SMOKE BOMB TO HIDEMINE DURING HIS 6 O'CLOCK DINNER

WHEN SHE OPENS THE DOOR

AT 8:45, DURING HER LIGHTS-OUT INSPECTION

TO THE BACK DOOR LEADING TO THE PARKING LOT

...THAT'S HER PLAN

THEY'LL RUN DOWN THE HALL-WAY

THE OLD MAN WILL BE EVACUATED FROM HIS HOSPITAL ROOM

IT'S MEANT TO APPEAR THAT THERE'S A FIRE

.....

.....

AFTER THAT, THEY HAVE TO DEPEND ON LUCK

WELL, THEIR CHANCES ARE ABOUT 50% ...

THAT'LL BE THE SIGN TO ME

IF THE 3RD FLOOR HOSPITAL WINDOW IS OPENED

IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AT 8:45

THE MAIN PROBLEM IS WHETHER IT'S POSSIBLE TO GET THE OLD MAN OUT OF H.S ROOM

AND FROM THERE, IF HE CAN MAKE IT OUTS.DE ...

ALTHOUGH IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE

SUR-PRIS'NGLY, IT MIGHT EASILY SUCCEED ...

8.45
...

IF ALL GOES WELL, THEY'LL BE HERE WITHIN 3 MINUTES

IT'S STARTING ...!

IT OPENED ...!

...46 SEC-ONDS ...

.....

WELL, HOW ABOUT IT ...?

ゴロロロ…

Y-YEAH …

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE …!

ナニ…

KING OF THIS LAND …

SO THAT'S HIDEMINE KAMUI …

OVER THERE

CASTLE …?

UM …

WHERE SHOULD I GO …?

GO TO THE "SKY PALACE KAMUI"

IT'S A HOTEL SET TO OPEN IN A MONTH

THE DESTI-NATION IS A CASTLE -

OKAY …

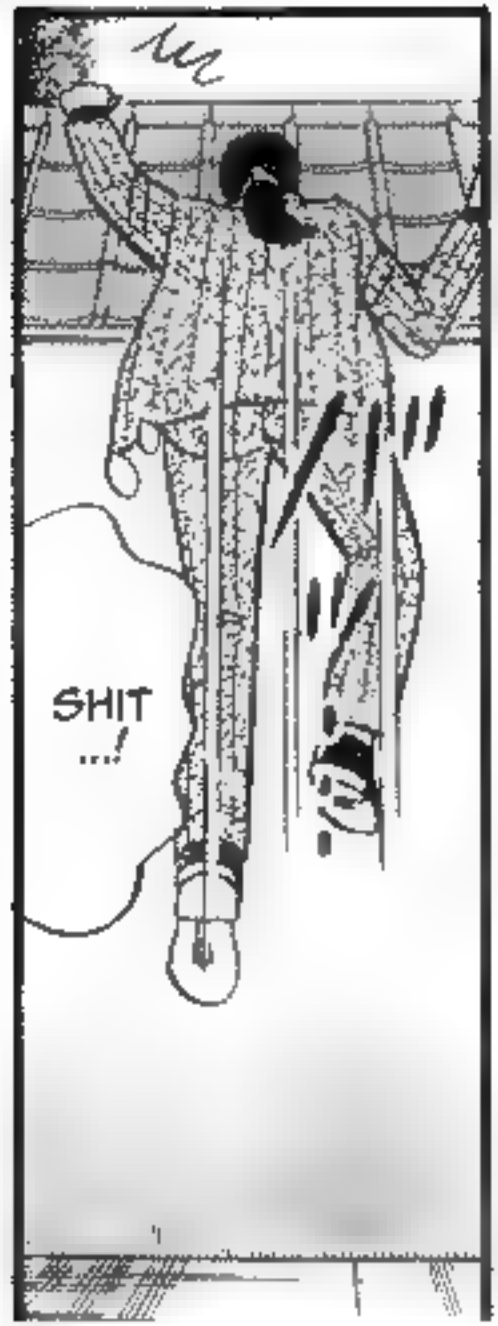
……

……

THE CASTLE …

SKY PALACE KAMUI ...!

THE SYMBOL OF THE KAMUI FAMILY WHO RULES THIS LAND



TRANSLATION/TYPESETTING/CLEANS: TEABUN

HIDEMINE FIRST OF ALL CALLS IN MEN FROM THE MATSUI GROUP

AFTER ARRIVING AT THE HOTEL, USING A NEARBY PAYPHONE

THE TOP FLOOR, AND THE ELEVATOR

THEY TURN THE POWER ON FOR THE 1ST FLOOR LOBBY,

AFTER THAT, THEY GO TO THE BASEMENT MACHINE ROOM

TO THE PRESIDENT'S ROOM ON THE TOP FLOOR

THUS, THE THREE HEAD UP

ウィーン…

第五話

愛憎と謀略の狂宴

A REVELRY OF LOVE, HATE AND DECEPTION

THE DOG IS HIDEMINE'S PET, JUNICHIRO

...

THEY AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE MATSUI GROUP

AFTER HIDEMINE CHANGES INTO THE SET OF CLOTHES THEY HAD STASHED IN THE TRUNK OF THE CAR AHEAD OF TIME

.....

HE WAS HIS SUP-PORTIVE FRIEND

WHILE LIVING IN THAT LONELY HOSPITAL ROOM

HIDEMINE CALLS HIS THREE OLDEST SONS

AFTER PREPARING SOME BODY-GUARDS

YES ..

COULD YOU LEND ME YOUR PHONE .?

THE MATSUI GROUP ARRIVES

40 MINUTES AFTER CON-TACTING THEM

YOU ARE WEL-COME

THANK YOU ...

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS IS AN ORDER

ALL THREE OF YOU

COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

YES

SAORI-KUN ...

PHEW-

SO THAT YOU DON'T INTERFERE

YOUR MASTER IS GOING TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION

YOU'LL GO IN HERE FOR NOW

JUN-ICHIRO-KUN

THERE THERE ...

YES

JUNICHIRO ...

WOOF
...

WOOF

...

FU
FU
...

IT VANISHED THE NEXT MOMENT

BUT ...

IT WAS ONLY A SMALL SENSE OF DIS-COMFORT

A BAD FEELING

MORITA FELT A SENSE OF UNEASINESS IN HIS CHEST

AT THAT TIME

A PAGER ...?

IT'S PERFECT

AFTER THIS, HIDEMINE IS JUST GONNA LECTURE HIS SONS WHEN THEY COME ALONG IN A BIT ...

AND S NCE I'M NOT ENOUGH TO PROTECT H M ON MY OWN

THE JOB WENT REALLY SMOOTHLY

WE ALSO ADDED EIGHT MORE PEOPLE AS BODYGUARDS

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, RIGHT ...?

.....

40 MIN-UTES LATER -

THAT'S ALL ...

.....

THE THREE BROTHERS ARRIVE

11:30 PM

COULD I ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE ROOM FOR A LITTLE BIT ...?

FROM HERE ON, IT'S FAMILY TALK

YES ...

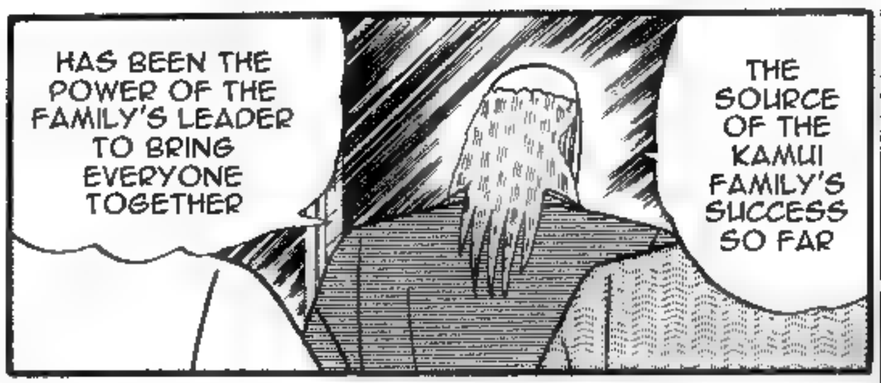
EVERY-ONE

EX-CUSE ME ...

AND HIDEMINE AND HIS SONS WERE LEFT ALONE IN THE ROOM

MORITA AND THE REST WENT OUTSIDE -

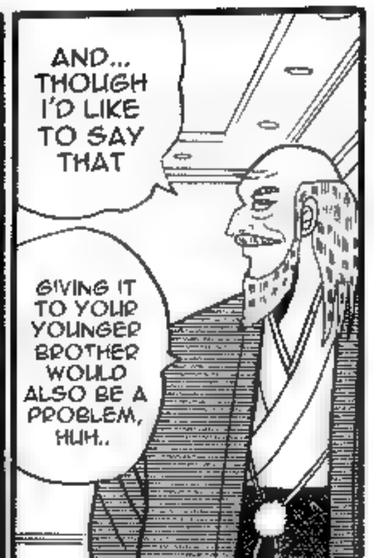
THAT IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOUR STEP-BROTHER
THERE'S BEEN TALK IN THE STREETS THAT THE POSITION OF THE PATRIARCH WILL GO TO A THIRD PARTY
BY ALL RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD BE DISOWNED FOR THAT SORT OF THING


HAS BEEN THE POWER OF THE FAMILY'S LEADER TO BRING EVERYONE TOGETHER
THE SOURCE OF THE KAMUI FAMILY'S SUCCESS SO FAR

HOW IDIOTIC ...
.....

I STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED YET ...
IN OTHER WORDS

YOU GUYS STILL HAVE SOME HOPE
DON'T WORRY ...


AND... THOUGH I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT
GIVING IT TO YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER WOULD ALSO BE A PROBLEM, HUH..

IT'S A CONSPIRACY WORTHY OF DEATH ...!
WHAT YOU DID WAS AN ABSOLUTE BETRAYAL OF THE FAMILY'S LAWS

THINK ABOUT IT IN TERMS OF THE FAMILY'S HISTORY
TO DO SOMETHING LIKE CONFINE OR IMPRISON THE PATRIARCH

YOU WOULD GET YOUR PICTURE IN THIS FRAME

I WAS GOING TO GIVE ONE OF YOU THREE THE SEAT OF THE 8TH FAMILY HEAD

IT IS CERTAINLY A POS-SIBILITY

IF YOU MAKE AN EFFORT TO REDEEM YOURSELVES

YOU MIGHT STILL NOT BE CAST ASIDE

ORIGINALLY, BECAUSE YOU THREE ARE VERY DIS-TINGUISHED ...

WHO'S GOING TO INHERIT THE ROLE OF PATRIARCH ...

YOU ALL SHOULD DO SOME SERIOUS REFLECTION RIGHT NOW

THE SECOND SON, KATSU-NOBU?

WILL IT BE THE THIRD SON, KATSU-YUKI?

THE ELDEST SON, KATSU-TERU ...?

OR MAYBE

I SAID, I'M SICK OF THIS

WHAT ARE YOU ...

EH ...?

.....

I'M SICK OF THIS ...

I SAID I'M SICK OF THIS ...!

I'VE HAD IT WITH THEM

I'M FED UP! FED UP!

THE ENTICING, FOUGHT-OVER "RIGHTS OF THE PATRIARCH"

YOU ...

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND ...?

KATSU-TERU ...

.....

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SPEAKING TO ...!?

I'M PREPARED TO EXCOMM-UNICATE YOU FROM THE KAMUI FAMILY ...!

FOR THESE RASH REMARKS AGAINST THE CURRENT FAMILY HEAD ....

THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO, ...!

THROW HIM OUT ...!

THIS FOOL ...

SOMEBODY ...!

SOMEBODY GET IN HERE ...!

?.....

.....

SOMEBODY GET IN HERE ...!

O

ゴ"//.....

SOMEONE WAS CALLING OUT FROM IN THERE ...

UM, IS THIS REALLY OKAY...? NOT GOING IN...

RIGHT ...?

YOU DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ...

UU ...

AND NOT YOU, EITHER ...

NOT ANY OF US

WE DIDN'T HEAR ANY-THING

?.....

KU KU KU ...

KU KU ...

ANYBODY ...?

EH ..?

THEY READILY BETRAYED YOU AND CAME OVER TO OUR SIDE

EVERYONE IS TIRED OF YOUR OVERBEARING METHODS, FATHER

WE MADE THE MATSUI GROUP OUR SUB-ORDINATES LONG AGO

NO ONE IS COMING

.....

WHAT IDIOCY ...!

WE ARE GOING TO DIVIDE THE ASSETS EVENLY AMONGST US THREE

ARE NOT GOING TO GIVE THE PATRIARCHAL RIGHTS TO ONE PERSON ALONE

WE

KATSUTERU ...

WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU DIVIDE THAT POWER ...?

THE STRENGTH OF THE KAMUI FAMILY COMES FROM THE MONOLITHIC HEAD OF THE FAMILY

YOU'LL PERISH ...!

WHY DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND THIS ...!?

ONCE YOU DO SUCH A THING, YOU'LL BE EXPLOITED BY OTHERS

WHAT KIND OF STUPID IDEA IS THAT!?

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES ...?

THAT'S FINE ...!

WHAAAT !?

.....

WITH THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR, THE KAMUI FAMILY WILL BE RUINED ...!

COMPARED ...

WE WERE MEA-SURED ...

PITTED AGAINST EACH OTHER ...

SINCE WE WERE LITTLE KIDS ...

BECAUSE OF THOSE THINGS

SINCE WE WERE ONLY THREE OR FOUR YEARS OLD ...

BOTH OUR FAMILY AND ITS PA-TRIARCHAL RIGHTS

THEY'RE UN-NEEDED ...!

THE SPECTER OF THE PATRIARCHAL RIGHTS

IT RUINED EVERY-THING ...!

IT RUINED OUR FAMILY ...!

IT'S NOT JUST THAT DISTORTED RELATION-SHIP ...

NOT WHEN YOU REJOICE EVERY TIME YOUR OPPONENTS SLIP UP

THERE WAS NO WAY TO HAVE A GOOD, BROTHERLY RELATION-SHIP

I'VE HAD ENOUGH ALREADY ...!

... I'VE HAD ENOUGH ...

. . . . . .

WHY CAN'T YOU FEEL IT...?

HOW DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THIS...?

THE RIGHTS THEM-SELVES ...!

WE'LL BURY THEM ...!

OF COURSE, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE INTEND TO HAND THEM OVER TO SOMEBODY ELSE

WE REJECT THE RIGHTS OF THE PATRIARCH

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING

BURY ...?

YES ...

TOOK A CONSI-DERABLE TOLL ON YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

YOUR SEVERE ILLNESS

.....?

YOU BECAME PRONE TO PARANOIA

THE NEW SYMBOL OF THE KAMUI FAMILY

DURING A FIT TODAY, YOU ESCAPED YOUR HOSPITAL ROOM

IN THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE OF SKY PALACE KAMUI

OPENING NEXT MONTH

BY YOUR OWN HAND ...

YOU TOOK YOUR OWN LIFE ...!

フ"ド"!!

YOUR LIFE WAS EXTIN-GUISHED

WE ARRIVED TOO LATE

ALTHOUGH WE RUSHED OVER

RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM YOU

WE

!

...

FATHER

...

.....

WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE REST UP TO US

.....

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DECISION ...!

EVERYTHING WILL TURN OUT OKAY

BY MAKING OUR FATHER DISAPPEAR FROM THIS WORLD

IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF THE FAMILY

THIS IS INSANITY ...

ARE YOU INSANE ...?

Y... YOU ...

!

.....

MAKE A WISE DECISION

PLEASE DECIDE

BAS-
TARDS
...!

ENOUGH
PLAYING
AROUND
...!

IDIOTS
...!!

IF,
WITH
YOUR
OWN
POWER
...

JUST
WHAT ARE
YOU
SAYING
...

WE'LL
LEND
YOU
OUR
STR-
ENGTH

...THERE'S
NO OTHER
CHOICE...

IF YOU
CANNOT
DECIDE

.....

WHAT
...

WH
...

ピーッ

GAH ...!

NOW STAY STILL ...!

IT'LL ALL BE OVER SOON ...

IT'LL BE OVER SOON

AH-AH ...

ゴ!...

HAA ...

HAH ...

SOMEONE ... HELP ME ...

HAH ...

HELP ME ...

HAH ...

HAH
...

CLEANING: SNOOP
TRANSLATION/TYPESETTING: TEABUN

第67話

密室殺人劇

CLOSED ROOM MURDER DRAMA

ｶﾁｬ…

WOOF

WOOF

ｺﾞﾄ…

ｺﾞﾄ…

WOOF

ｳｳ…

ｳｳ…

KHH…

ｳｳ…

SOMEBODY…!

KAMUI-SAN…!

GET OUT ...

LEAVE ...!

WH... WHAT THE ...?

WHAT ARE YOU ...!?

HU ...

AUGH ...!

NII-SAN ...!

THE GUN ...!

GUH ...!

ガッ

WAH ...!

MORITA-KUN ...!

WHOA ...!

WAH ...!

LET'S GO ...!

Y... YES ...!

MR. CHAIRMAN ...!

CHAIRMAN ...!

WAIT ...!

DAMN IT ...!

UU ...

WAIT ...!

NII-SAN ...

I'M NOT ABOUT TO WAIT ...!

I'LL SHOOT ...

WAIT ...

UWAH ...!

WAH ...!

Y... YES ...!

YOU TOO, SAORI-KUN ...

TO THE ELE-VATOR ...

RUN, MORITA-KUN ...!

THIS SITU-ATION ...

IT'S ALRIGHT ...

HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE BULLET HOLE ...?

CAN A PERSON SHOOT THEM-SELVES IN THE BACK ...?

BUT ...

HOW IN THE WORLD,

WE NEED THE OLD MAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE, RIGHT?

.....

.....

AND HAVE THEM CUT THE ELEVATOR'S POWER ...!

I'LL CALL THE MACHINE ROOM

THEY WON'T MAKE IT OUTSIDE

HURRY ...!

ALRIGHT, LET'S HEAD TO THE 1ST FLOOR ...!

KAMUI-SAN ...!

EH ...?

I'M SORRY ...!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ...!? THIS IS A CRITICAL MOMENT ...!

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...!

I PRESSED THE "23" BUTTON NEXT TO IT BY MISTAKE

1
23
B1
22
B2
21

.....

PHEW-
...

6 5 4 3 2 1 B1 B2

OUTTA THE WAY ...!

THOSE 5 OR 6 SECONDS ...

IT SHOULDN'T BE A FATAL WOUND, THOUGH ...

WE'LL LOSE ABOUT 5 OR 6 SECONDS ...

AFTER WE STOP AT THE 23RD FLOOR AND THE DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

AND THOUGH HE AT-TEMPTS TO START MOVING DOWN

NAT-URALLY, MOR TA CLOSES IT RIGHT AWAY

THE DOOR OPENS

ONCE THE ELEVATOR STOPS HERE

THE 23RD FLOOR -

2 B1 1 2
1 22 23 24

SUD-
DENLY
-

WHAT'S
THE
MEANING
OF THIS
...

さわ…

EH
...?

THEY CUT
THE POWER
TO THE
ELEVATOR

MORITA-
KUN
...

SHALL
WE
GET
OFF
...?

FU
FU
...

THE
DOOR
RE-
MAINED
OPEN

THE
LIGHTS
WENT
OUT

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
KIND OF
LUCK THIS
IS...

...
HONESTLY
...

SAORI-
KUN'S
MIS-
TAKE
GAVE US
THIS
CHANCE

IF WE
HAD
HEADED
STRAIGHT
FOR THE
1ST
FLOOR
WE ALL
WOULD
HAVE BEEN
TRAPPED
IN THERE

.....

.....

FU
FU
...

FU
FU
...

FU
FU
NONE OF THE DOORS ARE LOCKED. WE CAN ENTER AND EXIT FREELY
HOW-EVER, ON THIS FLOOR
WE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF BEING ABLE TO HIDE ON THIS
BE ABLE TO ENTER ANY OF THE ROOMS, SINCE YOU NEED A KEY
IF WE HAD STOPPED AT ANY OTHER FLOOR
WE'D BE FORCED TO STAY IN THE HALLWAYS
OUT OF ALL THE FLOORS
FU
FU
THIS IS

THERE'S EIGHT PEOPLE FROM THE MATSUI GROUP, PLUS THE THREE BROTHERS, MAKING ELEVEN PEOPLE

COM-PARING THAT TO THEM

ALSO ...

OUR ONLY WEAPON IS THAT SWORD THE OLD MAN HAS

WE ONLY HAVE THREE PEOPLE

BUT ...

IT'S TRUE THAT WE GOT A LITTLE LUCKY

ENVENOO

NOTHING'S CHANGED

BUT THE SITUATION IS STILL DESPERATE

SURE, WE HAD A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK

IT'S LAUGHABLE

THOSE ELEVEN PEOPLE HAVE HANDGUNS

ON THE 23RD FLOOR, THE ELEVATOR'S DOORS OPENED, AND THEN STOPPED

IN ANY CASE

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THEY FLED OUT ONTO THE FLOOR

THEY GOT OFF AT THE 23RD FLOOR ...?

WHO KNOWS ...

WHY THE 23RD ...?

WHY ...?

EH ...?

WHAT A PAIN ...

.....

MM-HMM ...

THEN, THERE'S PLENTY OF PLACES FOR THEM TO HIDE THERE ...

THAT'S THE RESTAURANT FLOOR

THE 23RD FLOOR, YOU SAY

YEAH ...

EH ...?

WE CAN'T EVEN TURN ON THE LIGHTS

AND FROM HERE ON

WE CAN'T GO TURNING THE LIGHTS ON AND OFF ON STRANGE FLOORS

THERE'S ALWAYS A LINE OF SIGHT FROM THE STREETS BELOW

IN OTHER WORDS

SKY PALACE KAMUI IS A HOTEL WITH A VIEW OF THE THE ENTIRE CITY

チラ..

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THAT FOR LIGHT

THE SECURITY ROOM ON THIS FLOOR SHOULD HAVE A FLASHLIGHT ...

UNLESS WE ONLY TURN ON THE LIGHTS IN THE LOBBY AND IN THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

LATER ON, IT WON'T FIT IN WITH THE SUICIDE STORY WE CONCOCTED

……

WE NEED TO CAPTURE THE OLD MAN AND THE OTHERS

IT'S EXACTLY AS WE SAID JUST NOW

WHILE REFRAINING FROM USING OUR GUNS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

THOSE OF YOU IN THE MATSUI GROUP

KATSU-TERU-SAMA …

?!

……

EH …?

WE CANNOT DO THAT

UNFORT-UNATELY

HE COULD BE LURKING ANYWHERE

IS CARRYING A SWORD ON THAT COMPLETELY DARKENED FLOOR

RIGHT NOW, THE CHAIR-MAN

ALTHOUGH YOU SAY IT WILL BE EASY TO CATCH HIM

.....

IT IS NOT POSS BLE FOR US AT THIS TIME

?.....

WELL, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD DIE, ANYWAY

HE WILL DIE IF HE IS SHOT

IF HE ATTACKS SUDDENLY

THERE WOULD BE NO CHOICE BUT TO SHOOT H.M IN SELF-DEFENSE

.....

RIDI-CULOUS ...

WHAT THE ...

WHEN WE CAME HERE TODAY

DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD BE FAR BEYOND WHAT THE BOSS TOLD US WE WOULD DO

IS SIT AND WATCH QUIETLY

ALL WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW

WE'LL LEND YOU GUNS

ONE FOR EACH OF YOU

カチャ

WE WON'T LEAVE YOU EMPTY-HANDED

HOW-EVER

....

SAID THAT KIND OF THING ...

YES

THE BOSS OF THE MATSUI GROUP ...

ONLY AS FAR AS PREP-ARATION

WE CAN COOPERATE WITH YOU ON THIS

WE CAN PROVIDE ONE FOR EACH OF YOU

AFTER THIS, WE CAN USE CELL PHONES FOR CONTACT

.....

FROM THAT POINT ON

PLEASE CARVE A PATH USING YOUR OWN STRENGTH, KATSUTERU-SAMA

WHAT'S WITH THIS CHANGE ...?

WHAT KIND OF COMPLAINTS DO YOU HAVE ...?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ...?

I'LL ALLOW THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO

ADDITIONALLY, WHATEVER CONSEQUENCES FROM THAT MAY OCCUR

SO GO ...!

IF IT'S UN-AVOIDABLE THERE IN THE DARKNESS

IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STICK WITH CAPTURING HIM

I'LL LET YOU USE YOUR GUNS ...!

DO YOU WANT MORE MONEY ?

OR IS IT BECAUSE OF THE DANGER ...?

GO ...!

IS FOR THESE KINDS OF TROUBLESOME THINGS ...!

AND ANYWAY, THE REASON YOU'RE ASSOCIATED WITH THE KAMUI FAMILY

I SAID GO, SO YOU GO ...!

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE ...!

IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU SAID

THAT'S RIGHT ...

.....

FU FU ...

YOU'RE OBLIGATED TO GO ...!

I SAID THAT WE CANNOT

THAT IS WHY

FU FU ...

EH ...?

WE'RE IN THE SERVICE OF THE KAMUI FAMILY

LIKE YOU SAID, KATSUTERU-SAMA

.....

WAS AN OUTSIDER REBELLING AGAINST THE KAMUI FAMILY

WE WOULD SPARE NO EFFORTS

IF THE PERSON HIDING ON THE 23RD FLOOR

WE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT HARM HIDEMINE-SAMA

WE CANNOT TAKE ANY CHAN-CES

THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO

THE ENEMY IS HIDEMINE KAMUI, THE FAMILY HEAD

HOW-EVER ...

WE WOULD BE FULLY PREPARED TO PUT OUR LIVES ON THE LINE

WE COULD NOT LIVE IN THIS WORLD ANY LONGER

AFTER DOING SUCH A THING

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ...?

THAT KIND OF THING IS ABSOLUTELY NOT ALLOWED IN THE YAKUZA WORLD

IT WOULD BE LIKE

IF WE WENT AND DID SUCH A THING

SERVANTS HUNTING FOR THEIR MASTER'S HEAD

WHEN IT COMES TO PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE INNER CIRCLE

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SIT AND WATCH SILENTLY

ARE POWERLESS WHEN IT COMES TO ISSUES BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE KAMUI FAMILY

WE

.....

.....

.....

ONLY THE INNER CIRCLE CAN RESOLVE THEM

PLEASE SEE IT TO THE END

AND SETTLE IT

BY YOUR OWN HAND

FOR FAMILY MATTERS ...

THIS COUP D'ETAT WAS YOUR PLAN, KATSUTERU-SAMA

FROM THE START

FU FU ...

OUTSIDERS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO INTERFERE

THEY SHOULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE FAMILY ...

.....

あ

亡命◆第⑰話◆完

TRANSLATION/CLEANS/TYPESETTING: TEABUN

MORITA-KUN ...

OH YEAH ...

: : : : : : : : : :

SINCE WE CAME DOWN TO THE 23RD FLOOR

ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED ...?

25 MINUTES OR SO ...

IT'S BEEN ABOUT ...

第53話

謀反への行動

BEGINNING THE REBELLION

KU KU KU ...

KU KU KU ...

25 MINUTES, HUH ..

HAH ...?

THEIR COUP D'ETAT

THEIR PLAN FAILED

FU FU ...

IT WAS BORN ...!

CHANCE AT VICTORY WAS BORN

OUR ...

?...

KU KU KU ...

THE FACT THAT THE MATSUI GROUP HASN'T COME DOWN HERE TO PURSUE US

IT'S ALREADY BEEN 25 MINUTES

MEANS

YES

A CHANCE AT VICTORY

THEY DON'T HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE MATSUI GROUP

THE MATSUI GROUP IS DEFYING THEM

ALSO, THEY DIDN'T GIVE CHASE, LETTING US GET AWAY

ALMOST LIKE THEY WERE MERELY GYS'ANCEGS

THE MATSUI GROUP MEMBERS SURROUNDING US DIDN'T DO MUCH

THINKING ABOUT IT, WHEN WE WERE RUNNING TOWARDS THE ELEVATOR A LITTLE WHILE AGO

FU
FU

ONLY MY THREE SONS WILL COME CHASING AFTER US

BECAUSE OF THAT ...

ALSO, SINCE THIS FLOOR IS VISIBLE FROM THE STREET

THE MATSUI GROUP HASN'T CHOSEN A SIDE YET

THEY'VE TAKEN A "WAIT AND SEE" APPROACH

THIS MEANS ...

I'LL ATTACK WITH THE SWORD

AT THE RIGHT MOMENT

IF I WOUND ONE OF THEM

AMATEUR GUNMEN USING FLASHLIGHTS

THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HIT US ...!

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO TURN THE ELECTRICITY ON FOR THIS FLOOR

.....

I SEE ...

.....

KU KU KU

AFTER ALL, NO ONE CAN STAND AGAINST THE NAME OF "KAMUI" ...!

KU KU KU ...

EVERYONE SHOULD WAKE UP FROM THEIR MADNESS

PAIN IS A GOOD WAKEUP CALL FOR HUMAN BEINGS

FIGHTING IS UN-NECESSARY ...?

YEAH ...

FIGHTING IS UN-NECESSARY

. . . .

BUT IN THAT CASE

IT DEFINITELY COULD BE THAT THE MATSUI GROUP FEELS THAT WAY

WE CAN AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY DEATH

WE CAN PERSUADE THEM

WE SHOULD CREATE A SITUATION

SHOULD YOU, PATRIARCH HIDEMINE, DIE

WHERE CLEAR SUSPICION WILL INEVITABLY BE CAST UPON THOSE THREE

IN THAT CASE, THEY'RE FINE WITH HIDING THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND

I DON'T THINK THEY WANT TO BECOME MURDERERS

WHILE THOSE GUYS WANT THEIR FATHER DEAD

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WANT TO DISGUISE IT AS A SUICIDE OR ACCIDENTAL DEATH

THE POLICE WOULD BE SURE TO INVEST GATE THIS FLOOR AS WELL

IF YOU WERE TO DIE IN THIS HOTEL

THAT LATE LAST NIGHT, THERE WERE PEOPLE ON THIS FLOOR

THAT WAY, THERE WILL BE EVIDENCE

DO IT IN A WAY THAT'S VISIBLE FROM THE OUTSIDE

LET'S CRACK ABOUT 4 OR 5 IN A NOTICEABLE PLACE

FIRST OF ALL, AS FOR THE WINDOWS ON THIS FLOOR

EH ...?

SIMPLE AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD

MAKE THE WORD-ING

SOME-THING LIKE

YEAH ...

A LETTER ...?

WRITE A LETTER

AFTER CREATING A SITUATION WHERE THOSE THINGS WOULD HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE

THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS HIDE THE LETTER SOMEWHERE ON THIS FLOOR

"SO EVEN IF MY DEATH LOOKS LIKE A SUICIDE, IT IS A LIE"

"I AM ON THE VERGE OF BEING KILLED WHILE BEING PURSUED BY MY OWN SONS"
...

THAT WOULD BE THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER

YOU WON'T HAVE TO LAY A HAND ON ANYONE YOURSELF HIDEMINE-SAN

THE CHANCES ARE PROBABLY 8 OR 9 OUT OF 10 THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY NEEDLESS DEATHS

AGAINST THE IDEA OF MURDER

IT'LL BE A GREAT DETERRENT

JUST LIKE THAT, OUR OPPONENTS WILL GET ALL SPOOKED

FOR NOW, LET'S AVOID THE WORST CASE SCENARIO

AND RECONCILIATION MIGHT BE TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE

IT'S JUST, WELL... ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE TRUE THAT YOUR PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP IS ALREADY IRREPARABLE

IT'S CERTAINLY NOT A BAD IDEA

MOGITA-KUN YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP

I SEE

THAT MAN IS GARBAGE NOT WORTH TALKING ABOUT ...

ALTHOUGH PEOPLE WERE SAYING THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THE FAMILY HEAD

EVEN I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY NEEDLESS BLOOD-SHED

YES ...

THEN ...

I'LL USE YOUR LETTER IDEA

IF THINGS GO POORLY, I MIGHT END UP KILLING ALL THREE OF THEM ...

YET IN THIS CURRENT SITUATION ...

THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO HAND OVER THE TITLE OF FAMILY HEAD TO ONE OF THOSE THREE

FROM THE START, IT WAS NEVER GOING TO BE A PROBLEM

THAT IS, THAT RUMOR OF THERE BEING ANOTHER CANDIDATE GOING AROUND WAS JUST AN ASSUMPTION

FU FU ...

HAH ...?

LIKE PEACE-LOVING ORNEL

YOUR WORDING SOUNDS A LITTLE BIT

BUT .. NEVER-THE-LESS

SO, YOUR LETTER IDEA ISN'T TOO BAD, MORITA-KUN

IT'S WEAK ...!

THEY DON'T HAVE THE SCENT OF BLOOD

IN SHORT

WON'T STRIKE FEAR INTO A PERSON'S HEART

THOSE WORDS

FOR THE SAKE OF MY CUTE LITTLE SONS

I'LL WRITE IT DOWN

I'VE THOUGHT UP A BETTER WAY TO PUT IT

A LETTER WITH THE PURPOSE OF

RE-DIRECTING MY CUTE LITTLE SONS ...!

SKY PALACE

: :
: :
: :

IF YOU'RE ABLE TO CAPTURE HIM WITHOUT KILLING HIM,

THAT WOULD BE BEST

OF COURSE

10 MINUTES LATER

YOU'LL JUST BE KILLED IN RETURN

IF YOU STICK TO THAT TOO STRICTLY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO STICK TO THAT EXACTLY

BUT

HE RAN AWAY

IN HIS INSANITY, OUR OLD MAN STARTED BRANDISHING THAT SWORD

WE CAN'T HESITATE TO PULL THE TRIGGER

SO YOU SHOULD GET RID OF ANY SOFT-HEARTED FEELINGS YOU HAVE HERE

OUR OLD MAN WON'T HOLD BACK

IN THESE CIRCUM-STANCES

HE'LL COME DIRECTLY WITH AN INTENT TO KILL

SHOT HIM DEAD ...!

THAT'S RIGHT ...

AND SHOT HIM DEAD ...

IN SELF-DEFENSE, WE USED THE HAND-GUN

WE WENT TO SUBDUE HIM

KATSU-YUKI

NOTHING TO THE RIGHT ...

MM ...

THEY MIGHT BE LURKING

BE CARE-FUL

TO THE LEFT THERE'S A DIM LIGHT

WAIT

EH ...?

NOW THE LEFT SIDE ...

EH ...?

WHAT'S THAT ...?

ドキ

ドキ

ドキ

？？？

ドキ

ドキ

ドキ

ぼぉー…

Although I do not know who the final favor in this battle

During tonight's struggle I will do it on the altar

I will tell you all something

Katsuteru, Katsunobu, Katsuyuki

SKY PALACE
KAMUI

Out of the three of you, I'll kill two, and the one remaining.

Will become the Kamui family head ...!

「神威」の家長を

三人の半人を残す

ゴゴゴ

KU KU KU ...

ざわ..

ざわ

WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU WRITE...? IN THAT LETTER

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REPAIR OUR RELATIONSHIP ...

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU, MORITA-KUN?

THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT, SO ...

ISN'T THAT BASICALLY A DECLARATION OF WAR ...!?

TH... THAT IS ...

THAT'S RIGHT ...

TONIGHT

AT THAT POINT, WE CAN CREATE A NEW RELATIONSHIP

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY WAY FOR US BUT TO FIGHT

WE MUST GO FORTH UNTIL WE ARRIVE AT THAT PLACE ...!

KU KU KU ...

I'LL CREATE ONE POWERFUL MAN ...!

BY KILLING TWO DULLARDS

IS THE NIGHT WHERE THE BLOOD OF THE KAMUI FAMILY FINDS A NEW PATH

...
HE'S INSANE ...!

ON TOP OF THAT ...

IT'S LIKE HE'S A GHOST BY THE NAME OF KAMUI

HE'S ALREADY STOPPED THINKING LIKE A HUMAN BEING

THIS HIDEMINE GUY IS OUT OF HIS MIND

IT'S THE OPPOSITE ...!

THE THREE SONS AREN'T THE WEIRD ONES

SOMETHING THAT SAYS "OUT OF THE THREE OF YOU, I'LL KILL TWO, AND THE REMAINING ONE WILL BECOME FAMILY HEAD"

IN OTHER WORDS ...

WITHOUT THAT, HE COULDN'T HAVE WRITTEN THAT LETTER

HE HAS A PAINFUL AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN'S VITAL POINTS ...

HE'S A GHOST WITH A HORRIBLE NATURE

HE'S CRAZY, BUT A GENIUS AT THE SAME TIME

YOU'LL BECOME THE FAMILY HEAD IF YOU DO ...

THE FAMILY HEAD ...!

KILL THE TWO PEOPLE IN FRONT OF YOU... THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS

ANYONE IS FINE ...!

IT'S A TERRIFYING THOUGHT ...!

.....

.....

THE FAMILY HEAD WHO RECEIVES AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF ASSETS AND POWER ...!

A GENIUS ...

"FEAR" AND "DESIRE" ...!

HE STRUCK AT THE HUMAN MIND'S WEAKEST PLACES, ITS DEFENSELESS CORE

DOING NOTHING MORE THAN THAT

BUT THEY'RE THE DEEDS OF THE DEVIL ...!

銀と金◆第68話◆完

SKY PALACE
KAMUI

CREDITS:

translation/
cleans/typesetting:

teabun

and that's the end of volume 7.

thanks for staying with us so far!

the excitement really ramps in
vols 8 and 9, so look forward to it!